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East Asia

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Closer Links Urged Between APEC, PECC

OW2203114694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT
22 Mar 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 22 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa urged the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum Tuesday [22 March] to have closer links with a nongovernmental Pacific economic council to promote economic cooperation in the region.

In a message addressed to the 10th assembly of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), Hosokawa said APEC and PECC "should complement each other by identifying complementary activities for the promotion of regional economic cooperation." This is because "PECC and APEC share common objectives and an equal recognition of the importance of facilitating and promoting Asia-Pacific economic cooperation," he said.

PECC, a nongovernmental organization formed in 1980, provides a forum for the region's best thinkers, business leaders and government officials to meet and exchange views every 18 months on ways to boost economic cooperation in the world's fastest growing region.

Hosokawa noted the importance of dialogue in boosting cooperation among countries in the region. Japan, he said, "is ready to make efforts to continue playing a positive role in promoting such cooperation." Hosokawa's message was read to the audience of 500 delegates.

He also expressed hope that trade blocs in the Asia-Pacific region such as the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA] and the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] will not become economic fortresses. "I hope to see AFTA and NAFTA, while keeping up their coordination with GATT, continue to contribute to maintaining and strengthening the open and multilateral trading system," he said.

"Open, multilateral free trade under the auspices of GATT is of paramount importance for the development of not only the Asia-Pacific area but the entire world," he said.

PECC Statement Opposes Conditioned Trade

OW2303102594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0948 GMT
23 Mar 94

[By Siti Rahil]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 23 KYODO—A high-powered nongovernmental Asia-Pacific economic group has voiced concern about some countries linking trade and investment to human rights and democracy in a statement to be issued at the end of a three-day conference here on Thursday [24 March].

A copy of the finalized draft statement of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Wednesday said no region should be stopped from forming its own economic group as long as it is not protectionist.

"PECC expresses concern about the tendencies of some member economies to condition trade and investment on achievement of political or ideological objectives," said the statement, to be officially released at the end of PECC's 10th assembly. Delegates said this is an implicit reference to the tendency of some Western powers, such as the United States, to pressure Asian nations into adopting Western standards of human rights and democracy by threatening trade sanctions.

Called the "Kuala Lumpur Concord on Open Regionalism," the statement, which will be signed by representatives of each of the 21 member economies of the PECC, also stressed "the rights of all regions to organize in nondiscriminatory groupings, whether this be in the northern, southern, eastern or western Pacific." Delegates said this phrase apparently alludes to Western opposition toward the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC), which is being planned by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The PECC statement was pushed by Malaysia, which wants to use the opportunity as host country of the current meeting to rap the United States for trying to institutionalize Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) when it hosted the first APEC informal leaders' meeting in Seattle last November. The meeting was boycotted by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, who strongly opposes the institutionalization of APEC.

"The danger to a Pacific community, to the Pacific age, to our common future, can come from many directions," the statement warned.

While "the end of the Cold War has clearly contributed to the making of a wider Pacific community...excessive domestic preoccupation can put a brake on the Pacific movement," it said. "A diversion of commitment to narrow regional interests and pursuits can be a serious detour from a path to which some might never return."

It pledged to establish measures to study and monitor the development of protectionism and liberalization in the Pacific and elsewhere and "ensure that any subregional grouping contributes to open regionalism and to lowering the barriers to nonmember economies."

PECC, whose members include ASEAN, the United States, Japan and some Latin American countries, is a nongovernmental organization that allows eminent thinkers, business leaders and government officials to meet every 18 months for spontaneous discussions on ways to promote economic cooperation in the region.

Started in 1980, the PECC paved the way for the formation of the governmental APEC forum in 1989 and advises governments in the region on matters of economic cooperation.

Japan

Kantor Interviewed on Resuming Framework Talks

OW2303055794 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0309 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Interview with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor by unidentified NHK reporter at his office in Washington on 21 March; from "NHK News" Program; Kantor's comments are in English—recorded]

[Text] In an interview with an NHK reporter on 21 March, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor stressed that the resumption of Japan-U.S. framework talks would be possible depending on the package of measures the Japanese Government planned to map out in late March to open its markets.

[Begin Kantor recording] We hope that it is aggressive and bold, in that there will be a good enough package to restart talks under the framework. What I want to talk about is Japan's having a bold package of market-opening items that will help us reengage this process. [end recording]

In this way, Mr. Kantor stressed that the resumption of Japan-U.S. framework talks is possible depending on the package of measures the Japanese Government plans to map out in late March to open its markets.

[Begin Kantor recording] I think it should not escape our attention that the Japanese market is the most closed market of any developed country in the world. [end recording]

Mr. Kantor's remarks emphasized that the United States will continue to use sanctions as a weapon to press Japan to open its market. The U.S. Trade Representative plans to release an annual report on foreign trade barriers in late March which could be used as evidence in the decision to invoke the Super 301 provision of the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act against Japan's foreign trade barriers.

Commenting on the release of the report, Mr. Kantor said the United States wants to speedily resolve procurement by the Japanese Government and the automobile sector. In the interview he suggested that the two sectors might be singled out in the report as examples of closed Japanese markets in the report.

National Transport Unavailable To Evacuate ROK

OW2303122194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Japan would be unable to evacuate its nationals from the Korean peninsula using government aircraft or ships in the event of an outbreak of hostilities there, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday [23 March].

"Neither government planes nor SDF ships could be used for the evacuation of Japanese nationals since the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) Law has yet to undergo revision," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. He noted that there are an estimated 10,000 Japanese nationals now residing in South Korea.

"If an unanticipated situation were to arise, private planes and boats would all come to a halt and it will become difficult to protect our nationals," the official said.

The official doubted that the United Nations Security Council will immediately slap economic sanctions on North Korea for failing to allow unimpeded international inspections of its controversial nuclear facilities.

ROK Minister Reportedly Cancels Tokyo Trip

OW2303032394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0313 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, originally scheduled to accompany President Kim Yong-sam on his visit to Tokyo on Thursday, will not make the trip, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. No reason was offered for Han's last-minute withdrawal from the traveling party, but ministry sources noted that it is likely related to the increasingly tense situation on the Korean peninsula.

Han's meeting with his Japanese counterpart Tadamu Hata, also scheduled for Thursday, was also canceled, the ministry said.

Kim will be in Tokyo for a three-day visit beginning Thursday to meet with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and then will travel to China for meetings with Beijing leaders. Talks with Hosokawa and Chinese leaders are expected to focus on resolving North Korea's refusal to permit adequate inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Sino-Japanese Civil Aviation Talks Break Down

OW2303113594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1107 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Sino-Japanese civil aviation talks aimed at increasing regular flights between the two countries have broken down over China's insistence on the principle of reciprocity, Transport Ministry officials said Wednesday [23 March]. The officials said China rejected Japan's request for an increase in the number of flights to Beijing, insisting Japan accept the same number of Chinese flights to Tokyo's international airport at Narita.

Japan told China it is physically impossible to accept the Chinese demand because Narita airport is equipped with only one runway, they said.

Currently, Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways operate twice-weekly regular flights to Beijing while Japan Air System hopes to join them.

Two Chinese airlines, which now fly into Narita, Osaka and Fukuoka, want to increase their flights on the lucrative Narita route, the officials said. No resumption of negotiations is possible as long as China insists on increasing flights to Narita, the officials said.

Economic Package To Include Multiyear Tax Cuts
OW2303125894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1241 GMT
23 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—The government's new economic package designed to provide greater access to the Japanese market for foreign products will include plans for continuous income tax cuts and greater expenditures for public works projects, government sources said Wednesday [23 March].

The sources said the government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa plans to complete the package by the end of March to pave the way for resumption of stalled negotiations with the United States on a new framework for bilateral trade. Washington strongly demanded income tax cuts on a continuous basis as part of macroeconomic measures to promote Japanese imports and slash the country's swollen trade surplus.

The sources said the package will also include a further increase in outlays for public works projects over the 430 trillion yen called for under the present program. The size of the increment will be decided by the end of June when the government will prepare another round of market-opening measures, the sources said.

They said the government hopes the new package, to be worked out by the end of this month, will satisfy the U.S. and pave the way for resumption of trade negotiations between the two countries. The program will include measures for areas of principal U.S. interest, such as participation in government procurement, imports of automobile and auto parts and deregulation of the insurance industry, the sources said.

Sedayuki Hayashi, deputy foreign minister in charge of economic affairs, told a news conference earlier Wednesday that measures for deregulation in the three priority areas are now being scrutinized in response to Hosokawa's instruction.

Hayashi warned Japan will take retaliatory action under rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade if Washington imposes sanctions on the country on grounds of unfair trade practices.

Hiraiwa Defends Low Wage Hikes for FY '94
OW2303095294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0930 GMT
23 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Gaishi Hiraiwa, one of Japan's key business moguls, on Wednesday [23 March] defended the tight-fisted stance of management in this spring's wage negotiations, which will likely result in the poorest-ever wage hikes.

Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), told a news conference that the results of this year's spring labor offensive should be judged from a more overall perspective. "I doubt the wisdom of picking up only wages and comparing the sizes of their hikes," he said.

Wage negotiations in such key industries as steel and electric machinery makers have entered the final stage, with substantially low wage increases agreed or cited thus far.

Asked about the state of the economy, Hiraiwa said its recovery will come late this year or early next year.

Although some bright signs have started to appear, including the pickup in industrial production, housing starts and personal consumption, there still remain some worrisome factors, such as the slump in the real estate sector and the yen's appreciation, he said. "Transactions in commercial properties remain sluggish, while the worries over a possible spurt of the yen linger. Corporations are still in the middle of cutting labor and facilities," he said.

Warning against premature optimism, Hiraiwa also noted the possibility of a downturn of the economy in the spring. "Last year, many people predicted the economy bottomed out in March, but the yen's subsequent rise pulled it down in the April-June period. We cannot deny the possibility this year, too," he said.

Survey Indicates Improved Business Confidence
OW2303093494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT
23 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—More evidence emerged Wednesday [23 March] that Japanese business sentiment is halting its decline, with a Finance Ministry survey showing improvements in long-slumping confidence. The ministry's quarterly index of current business sentiment at major firms improved to minus 13.1 in the survey conducted in February from minus 22.1 in the previous survey taken in November.

The earlier figure was the worst recorded in the current economic downturn.

The survey for the first quarter, like the Bank of Japan's most recent "tankan" survey also taken in February, "seems to show a halt to the declines" in business sentiment, a ministry official said. "From these numbers

alone it would seem that the economy has hit bottom, but we must see if the trend continues" in subsequent data, he said.

The minus readings, which show the difference between the percentages of respondents seeing improvement and those seeing decline, also declined in the medium and small business sectors, according to the survey of 9,310 companies, of which 85 percent responded.

Overall, sentiment is improving, the official said, citing corporate restructuring and downsizing efforts. But he acknowledged a similar improvement in the survey figures a year ago.

At that time, signs of a turnaround were dashed by such factors as a surge in the yen's value, unseasonably bad summer weather and a series of construction scandals. The official said some of the February figures were collected before and some after a failed Japan-U.S. summit that saw trade tensions prompt another yen surge.

Major firms predicted the sentiment index will improve to minus 4.6 next quarter and to a plus 5.3 in the July-September period.

Sentiment at large manufacturers improved to minus 15.5 in the first quarter from minus 27.3, with predictions of improvement to minus 5.5 in the quarter starting next month and to plus 5.7 in the subsequent period.

Large nonmanufacturers reported an improvement to minus 10.8 in the current quarter from minus 17.8 and predicted improvements to minus 3.9 and plus 4.9.

Nonmanufacturers, especially the service sector, led the way in improving sales and profits, the ministry survey found.

All respondents, which also included medium-sized and smaller firms, expect pretax profits to fall 13.9 percent in the fiscal year ending this month, with sales slipping 2.8 percent. But they see profits rising 12.5 percent in the first half of the coming fiscal year and sales edging up 0.3 percent.

Manufacturers predicted fiscal 1993 pretax profit falls of 25.2 percent with sales dropping 4.4 percent and a first-half profit pickup of 10.1 percent with sales curbing their declines to 1.2 percent.

Among all nonmanufacturers, profits are expected to decline in this fiscal year, with sales slipping 2.2 percent, but climb 13.7 percent in the first half of fiscal 1994, with sales rising 0.9 percent.

Service companies see pretax profits rising 0.2 percent this fiscal year, with sales up 1.6 percent, and jumping 22.2 percent in the first half of fiscal 1994 as sales rise 2.4 percent.

Labor conditions, however, continued to worsen, according to the survey index that gauges the difference between the percentage of companies reporting a labor surplus and those seeing a shortage.

At major firms, the index weakened to minus 21.3, the worst since the ministry began conducting the survey in 1983, from 19.6 in the November survey. It was almost flat at medium-size companies, inching up to minus 13.6 from minus 13.7, and dipped to plus 0.5 at smaller firms from plus 1.5.

"The sense of surplus increased slightly," the official said, but he added that labor conditions are a lagging indicator of the state of the economy. All groups in the survey forecast improved labor conditions in the coming two quarters.

Feb Auto Output Declines 17th Consecutive Month

*OW2303085094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0807 GMT
23 Mar 94*

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Japan's production of cars, trucks and buses in February dropped 14.1 percent from a year before to 396,097 units for the 17th straight year-to-year fall, an industry association reported Wednesday [23 March]. The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said February marked the sixth straight month of double-digit yearly falls, a postwar record.

The association said exports dropped an estimated 24.0 percent from the year before level.

It said the February figure brought to 9,795,219 vehicles the total vehicle production for the first 11 months of fiscal 1993, down 12.3 percent from the like period of the preceding year. The association said the February output included 677,993 passenger cars, down 14.5 percent from a year earlier, extending the yearly decline to 11 straight months.

Production of trucks declined for the 31st month in a row, decreasing 13.0 percent from a year earlier to 213,973 units, the association said. Output of buses accounted for 4,131 units, down 9.2 percent, it said.

The association said domestic sales in February declined 6.2 percent from a year earlier to 519,253 units, with passenger cars accounting for 345,772, down 6.8 percent.

Sales of trucks totaled 172,240 units, down 4.9 percent, and those of buses were down 14.7 percent at 1,241, the association said.

The association said production of Toyota Motor Corp., leader of the industry, dropped 12.3 percent to 279,522 vehicles, while Nissan Motor Co.'s production totaled 142,965, down 13.4 percent. The association said all other major automakers reported a double-digit fall in production in February.

The association said motorcycle output in the month was down 17.2 percent from a year before at 232,004 units, posting the 11th straight month of year-to-year falls.

Cumulative production for the 11 months from April last year totaled 2,621,912 units, down 10.2 percent, the association said.

It said domestic shipments declined 3.5 percent while exports plunged an estimated 15 percent.

Watanabe Book Favors 'Public Interest' Politics
OW2303133494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Michio Watanabe, former foreign minister and a heavyweight in the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), urges political forces favoring the "public interest" to unite in a book to go on sale next month. The outspoken politician predicts in his book "The New Conservative Revolution" that the country's political forces will divide into two in the future—one that places priority on the public interest and one that is at the mercy of public opinion.

Demanding that the coalition of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa be dissolved, Watanabe urges "public interest" political forces to unite against others which he claims merely go along with the current of the times.

Watanabe criticizes the Hosokawa coalition of seven parties ranging from conservatives to reformists, saying, "parties with different basic ideas cannot do anything." He proposes realigning the LDP and four coalition parties—Shinseito, Komeito, the Japan New Party (JNP) of Hosokawa, and the new party Sakigake—into two conservative groups.

Watanabe, who was both deputy premier and foreign minister under the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa from 1991 to 1993, also sanctioned dissolving the LDP to help create "the two conservative forces."

Shinseito and Sakigake are mainly made up of LDP defectors.

Shinseito and the Buddhist-backed Komeito are also seeking to establish a two-party system of the LDP and a new rival party to be made up of non-LDP forces, including Shinseito and Komeito.

Hosokawa, whose coalition was inaugurated last August when the LDP lost its 38-year grip on power, is reportedly tilting in favor of ties with the Shinseito-Komeito camp, shifting from close relations with Sakigake which is in favor of a multiparty system, though fewer than the current number.

The three other coalition parties are the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and the minor United Social Democratic Party (USDP). The SDP and the DSP are in line with Sakigake on political realignment.

Ichiro Ozawa, the alliance's chief strategist and Shinseito's secretary general, and Masayoshi Takemura, Sakigake's leader, have also published books discussing the future of politics in Japan.

Hosokawa Orders Draft of Deregulation Measures
OW2303084694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0825 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—A senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday Japan will work out a market-opening package by the end of this month to prepare for early resumption of framework trade talks with the United States.

Sadayuki Hayashi, deputy foreign minister in charge of economic affairs, told a news conference that measures for deregulation in priority areas such as government procurement, automobile and auto parts imports and insurance now are being scrutinized at the order of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. Hayashi added, however, that it would be difficult to complete a comprehensive package comprising all priority areas as well as policies for free competition.

Referring to a U.S. threat to take retaliatory action against Japan under the controversial Super 301 clause, Hayashi said it is natural for Japan to seek judgment from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) if such a step is invoked. Hayashi added Japan is allowed to take countermeasures against such moves under GATT rules.

Gas Industry Promises To Enhance Competition
OW2303032594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0308 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Gas industry leaders said Wednesday [23 March] the industry will promote competition in line with recommendations shown in a recent government panel report. Top officials of the Japan Gas Association made the pledge during a breakfast meeting with Hiroshi Kumagai, international trade and industry minister.

Association chief Hiroshi Watanabe said the industry will make efforts to serve the interest both of customers and regions while enhancing competition under deregulation of government controls. The government panel unveiled a report in late January, calling for flexible price setting for large-lot gas users and new entries into the gas business.

The industry will redouble efforts to reinforce its earnings base in order to secure a stable gas supply, said Watanabe, also chairman of Tokyo Gas Co.

Referring to a recent spell of explosions and other accidents, MITI chief Kumagai asked the leaders to make the industry safer. The industry will take adequate steps based on the January recommendations, Watanabe said.

Government Decides on Retirement Age Bill

OW1803035994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0207 GMT
18 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's cabinet decided Friday [18 March] on a bill that would require employers to set the retirement age for employees at 60, starting in fiscal 1998.

The bill, to be sent soon to the Diet for approval, stipulates the retirement age should "not be below 60" but exempts jobs which are considered difficult for older workers.

It also gives the labor minister the authority to recommend that employers secure jobs for employees until 65.

The bill, which would revise a law on job security for older workers, also contains a relaxation of restrictions on the kinds of jobs temporary workers are permitted to perform.

Under existing law, temporary staff are allowed for only 16 kinds of jobs, such as translators and secretaries, but the bill would expand the scope for older workers to include all jobs except cargo handling at ports, construction and security.

Iceland's Leader on Commercial Whaling Ban

OW2203124494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT
22 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Iceland's Prime Minister David Oddsson said Tuesday [22 March] his country plans to resume commercial whaling in the "near future" but has not decided when. "The problem is the possibility of selling whale meat," Oddsson told a news conference, alluding to an international ban on trade in whale products.

"We could never eat all the whales we would like to hunt," said Oddsson, who is in Japan for an informal visit to accompany the national soccer team for friendship matches with Japan's J-league. Iceland has a population of 260,000.

As a "very small economy" the fishing nation also must take into account possible reactions of antiwhaling groups, he said. "For organizations like Greenpeace it is very easy to hit a country like us," he said.

In 1989 Iceland halted whaling after environmentalists called for an international boycott of Icelandic products. Frustrated over a moratorium on commercial whaling decreed by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 1985, Iceland withdrew from the organization in 1991.

Iceland will consider rejoining the IWC if it "will change its methods," he said charging that the commission has been taken over by antiwhaling interests and "terrorist

groups like Greenpeace." The IWC must "realize" that it is possible to catch whales without risking overhunting, Oddsson said.

The 40-member IWC at its annual meeting in Kyoto in May rejected a set of rules devised to allow controlled harvesting of nonthreatened whale species, known as revised management procedure, dashing pro-whaling nations' hopes for a lifting of the whaling ban.

If the ban remains in place, the increasing number of whales will threaten the stock of other fish vital for Iceland's economy, the premier said. But he said "things are changing," noting increasing support for the idea of controlled culling of whales during the past two years.

That the United States, while ardently protesting against IWC-member Norway's resumption of small-scale commercial whaling in June 1993, did not act on its threats indicated that Washington is shifting from its anti-whaling position, he said.

However, Oddsson said he does not plan to discuss the whaling issue in talks with Chief Cabinet Secretary Masuyoshi Takemura scheduled for later Tuesday and declined to comment on Japan's whaling policy. At last year's IWC meeting Iceland called on Japan and Norway to quit the commission.

Japan has abided by the ban on commercial whaling but catches a limited number of whales in Antarctic waters each year for what it says is for scientific reasons. Japan's whaling fleet is currently carrying out its annual research mission to the Antarctic to hunt its permitted quota of some 330 minke whales while monitoring blue whales.

North Korea

Text of CPRF Statement on Rupture of N-S Talks

SK2203123794 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1108 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Statement issued by the spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in Pyongyang on 22 March]

[Text] The spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] issued the following statement denouncing the South Korean authorities for moving toward confrontation and war, totally blocking the exchange of top-level special envoys and dialogue between the North and the South.

Statement by the spokesman of the CPRF:

Currently, the South Korean authorities are moving toward the road of confrontation and war by totally blocking the exchange of top-level special envoys and dialogue between the North and the South.

As is already known, at the threshold the eighth working-level delegates contact for the exchange of special envoys held on 19 March, at a high-level strategic meeting, the

South Korean authorities talked about some kind of strong measure and babbled about the resumption of the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise, bringing in Patriot missiles, and taking part in international sanctions. Such provocative action by the South Korean authorities already predicted the destiny of the exchange of special envoys and the harassment of peace. Today's situation has taken that course.

At the 19 March working-level delegates contact, the South side took a position of virtually declaring separation from us, thus bringing the working-level delegates contact itself to a rupture, and it is now driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to an acute phase of war.

The provocative steps taken at the so-called meeting of security-related ministers on 21 March was a sort of a declaration of total confrontation and a declaration of war against us.

Right after this reckless provocative declaration by the puppet rulers, the puppet forces entered into an emergency alert in South Korea and there are signs of moves to bring in new military equipment, including Patriot missiles from the United States.

The CPRF resolutely denounces in the name of the entire Korean people the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique for unilaterally breaking up the dialogue with fellow countrymen and pushing the country's situation to a very dangerous brink of war by following outside forces.

All of today's situation clearly shows that, from the very beginning, the South Korean rulers did not want peace and peaceful reunification of the country, not to speak of the exchange of special envoys, but used the North-South dialogue for their insidious aim of putting the brakes on the DPRK-U.S. talks.

The reality in which the country's situation is rushing to a new phase of war urges the whole nation to see with high consciousness what a grave situation has been caused by the criminal acts of the Kim Yong-sam ring in abandoning the North-South dialogue and obstructing the DPRK-U.S. talks.

Facts show that the North and the South may fall victim to outside forces, failing to achieve reconciliation and reunification, while such flunkyst nation-sellers and national traitors as the Kim Yong-sam ring are left alone in the country, the traitors who set greater store by the interests of outside forces than by the nation's security and interests and think more of their personal comfort and distinction than of the nation's destiny.

Now, the Kim Yong-sam ring has become unable to conceal the fact that it is an antinational group that blocks dialogue between the fellow countrymen and seeks to inflict the scourge of war upon the nation, keeping outside forces within the country. The national traitors must be removed and liquidated within the nation as early as possible.

As long as the South Korean people already judged that there is nothing more to expect from the Kim Yong-sam fascist nation-selling regime, we will carry out a resolute struggle to eliminate the nation-sellers in the hope of promoting reconciliation and unity between the North and the South and open the road for the country's peace and peaceful reunification.

[Issued] 22 March 1994, Pyongyang

Commentary Terms Kim Yong-Sam 'Warmonger'
SK2303123294 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-sun: "Warmonger's Peace Gibberish"]

[Text] The saying, "A blackhearted person insists he does not have one," applies to South Korea's traitor Kim Yong-sam.

He, dining with stooges of a unit of the puppet Army on 19 March, raved that only power can preserve peace, that they should not slacken their vigilance even for a minute, and so forth. This can only be called an absurd trick of a civilian warmonger.

The entire world knows that the puppets, under the sign board of peace, last year brought the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war by running amok in war exercises and military buildup aimed at a Northward invasion.

Not long ago, puppet Kim Yong-sam has wandered South Korean military academies with the military chieftains, and enumerated bellicose outbursts, such as stressing the need to boost the combat capacity of the puppet Army to the greatest extent and on the ultra-modern weapons. Therefore, the peace the puppets are raving about is in fact a war. In this perspective, the rascal's trick that peace can only be preserved when there is peace is an open incitement of confrontation and agitation of war fever.

The fact that the puppets deliberately ruptured the working-level contacts for the exchange of high-level special envoys speaks well of their bellicose nature. From the beginning, they refused to accept our proposal on exchanging special envoys. What is more, they, after having reluctantly come out to the working-level delegates contact due to the public sentiment at home and abroad, created an artificial barrier to dialogues and hindered them with every means possible.

During the meeting they opposed our constructive and reasonable proposals without any reason and, behind the scene of dialogue, staged war exercises in the sky, on the ground, and on the sea almost every day. In doing so, they threw a cold blanket over the North-South talks and further aggravated North-South relations.

In particular, the puppets held a so-called strategic meeting of high-level ministers concerned and decided

to toughen its stand against us. They even made severe outbursts that they would resume Team Spirit war exercise, bring in Patriot missiles, and join in sanctions against us. It goes without saying that this is a declaration of refusal of the exchange of special envoys, a declaration of an all-out confrontation and war with us.

The puppets are talking about peace, reunification, and so forth. However, in effect, they do not want either of them. The only intention they have is unleashing a new war by stepping up war preparations for a Northward invasion. If that is not the case, why would the Kim Yong-sam clique keep pushing for the military buildup and expedite the development of nuclear weapons by going against the world trend of arms reduction? In addition, why would they, in collaboration with the outside forces, take the road of war by shaking off the fellow countrymen's hands, and brutally suppress patriotic students who oppose war and strive for peace and reunification?

Confrontation and peace cannot go together. Confrontation will eventually lead to a collision and a collision will escalate to a war. No matter how many times the Kim Yong-sam puppet ring makes a peace gibberish, it would not be able to hide the ugly color of civilian warmonger who heightened the tension on the Korean peninsula and cast a somber cloud of war. As long as the Kim Yong-sam clique remains intact, our nation will not be able to evade suffering from the ravages of war.

The Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique, which is confronting the fellow countrymen's desire for peace and reunification and running amok in the North-South confrontation and maneuvers to unleash a war, would not be able to avoid the stern judgment of the history and the people.

Commentary Blasts U.S. on Nuclear, N-S Issues

*SK2203135194 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 22 Mar 94*

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "Future Development of the Situation Will Entirely Depend on the United States"]

[Text] The United States again adhered to the policy of pressuring and crushing our republic.

As already reported, the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a statement manifesting the position of our republic regarding the undisguised attempt of the United States to crush [apsal] our republic with strong measures [kangkwon] and pressure by reversing the agreement of the 25 February DPRK-U.S. New York contact.

In the statement, the spokesman revealed the good intentions [sonui] implemented by our republic and the traitorous act [paein haengwi] taken by the United

States in the course of carrying out the four-point simultaneous action steps agreed to at the 25 February DPRK-U.S. New York contact. The spokesman said that the United States showed its intention to resume the 1994 Team Spirit joint military exercise at last and to impose sanctions on us at the UN Security Council on the pretext of the issue of inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and of the exchange of North-South special envoys. Concerning this situation, the spokesman clearly stated that we cannot unilaterally fulfill obligations put forward in the four-point simultaneous action steps, nor can we ensure the continuity of safeguards of the IAEA.

This is just exercising the sovereignty of our republic. As was known, our republic made sincere efforts to fairly resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula after the agreement reached at the DPRK-U.S. New York contact last month.

We explicitly ensured all conditions so that the inspection activities would be carried out to a sufficient extent for the continuity of safeguards for seven declared facilities. Moreover, we expressed magnanimity toward accepting all demands put forward by the inspection team members concerning the issues that went far beyond the scope of ensuring the continuity of safeguards.

We put forward concrete measures and a reasonable method for realizing at an early date the exchange of special envoys of the North and the South, which the United States raised as a precondition.

Nevertheless, going counter to this, the United States has never carried out the portion that it should have fulfilled [chagi halparul chonhyo ihaeing haji anta], and by continually presenting unreasonable pretexts, the United States has laid a barrier to implementing the four-point simultaneous action steps.

Even after suspending the 1994 Team Spirit joint military exercise and announcing the date of the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks, the United States persistently put forward the unreasonable preconditions that only after the IAEA inspection is carried out satisfactorily, and the exchange of special envoys is realized, can these problems be resolved. Now claiming that the IAEA inspection is not satisfactory, the United States insisted that the inspection must be conducted again. The United States also asserted that if the exchange of North-South special envoys is not realized, it will not hold a third round of DPRK-U.S. talks.

What is more grave is that the United States claimed that it will refer our so-called nuclear issue to the UN Security Council. This is an act that can be carried out only by the Americans, who have not freed themselves from the concept of the cold war.

As for inspection of our nuclear facilities, of which the United States is making an issue, the fact that nuclear materials in our nuclear facilities were not diverted for

other purposes could be sufficiently verified by the recent inspection activities and the continuity of safeguards could be firmly ensured.

From the outset, the IAEA Secretariat, violating the 15 February Vienna agreement by pursuing other purposes, demanded the inspection equivalent to regular and non-regular inspections based on the nuclear safeguards accord, instead of inspection for ensuring the continuity of safeguards.

This illustrates that the United States and the IAEA, from the beginning, attempted to internationally isolate and crush us on the pretext of the nuclear problem.

As for the issue of exchanging North-South special envoys, the agreement of the 25 February DPRK-U.S. New York contact only points out the resumption of working-level contact for the exchange of North-South special envoys. However, the United States stubbornly put forward the issue of realizing the exchange of North-South special envoys. This means violation of the agreement of the DPRK-U.S. New York contact.

As mentioned earlier, the United States is busily going round in an attempt to refer our nuclear issue to the UN Security Council. Timed to coincide with this, the IAEA held a meeting of its Board of Governors and waged a campaign of adopting a resolution against us.

To cope with such an unreasonable act [pudanghan haengdong] by the United States and the IAEA, our republic manifested the position of not dispatching its delegation to a third round of DPRK-U.S. talks.

The rupture [kyollyol] of DPRK-U.S. talks is entirely attributed to the unjust position and attitude of the United States. Therefore, the situation on the Korean peninsula is again entering a dangerous phase.

The United States showed the move to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. Foreign reports noted that a U.S. naval fleet composed of 30 ships is approaching the water zone of the Korean peninsula. The world expressed deep concern over such a dangerous act by the United States.

As long as the United States is attempting to crush our republic by all means using the nuclear issue and DPRK-U.S. talks, it is just for our republic to take self-defensive steps. As we have repeatedly declared, we are prepared for dialogue and for war.

The United States should ponder the grave situation [omjunghan chongae] prevailing on the Korean peninsula. The future development of the situation will totally depend on the United States.

We will watch the United States act.

Reportage on Clinton Order To Deploy Missiles

VOA Cited

SK2203135594 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean* 1216 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] According to the Voice of America on 22 March, the U.S. Department of Defense said that a U.S. Patriot missile battalion would move to South Korea from the U.S. state of Texas. It was reported that the Patriot missile battalion is made up of approximately 40 missile launchers and is composed of 800 troops.

After breaking up the DPRK-U.S. talks, U.S. President Clinton has ordered the deployment of Patriot missiles to South Korea. He is also leading the tension on the Korean peninsula to the situation of war by babbling that the missiles, which will be deployed to South Korea, contribute to the interest of the United States and South Korea.

Order Titled 'Provocative'

SK2203125094 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean* 1215 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] According to reports, Japan's NHK Television reported on 22 March that U.S. President Clinton had ordered the deployment of Patriot missiles to South Korea.

This is a provocative step to lead the situation to extremes by further aggravating tensions on the Korean peninsula. Under its intentional scheme to create the situation of confrontation with us, the United States has broken up the DPRK-U.S. talks by fully overturning the 25 February agreement made at the DPRK-U.S. contact in New York and has more openly strengthened a military threat and has pressured us by announcing that it will resume the Team Spirit 1994 joint military exercise.

The order by Clinton to deploy Patriot missiles to South Korea is a grave threat to us. This clearly shows that the United States is leading the Korean peninsula to the situation of war.

'Grave Threat' Noted

SK2303054394 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 0531 GMT 23 Mar 94

["Step To Drive Situation Into Extremes"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—U.S. President Bill Clinton reportedly ordered the deployment of Patriot missiles in South Korea, saying the missiles would serve the interests of the United States and South Korea.

This is a provocative step to drive the situation into extremes by screwing up the tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Out of an intentional scheme to create an atmosphere of confrontation against the DPRK, the United States totally reversed the agreed conclusions reached between the DPRK and the U.S. at the New York contact on February 25 and broke off the DPRK-U.S. talks and now has become all the more undisguised in its military threats and pressure against the DPRK, saying the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises would be resumed.

Clinton's order of the deployment of Patriot missiles in South Korea is a grave threat to the DPRK, and it clearly shows that the United States is pushing the situation of the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

ROK, U.S. Action Condemned

*SK2303051194 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0447 GMT 23 Mar 94*

["Confrontation Row of Those Digging Their Own Grave"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Yong-sam of South Korea Monday called a "meeting of security-related ministers" at "Chongwadae" [ROK's presidential office] to "examine the policy toward the North and the defense posture" as regards "the nuclear issue of the North."

Shortly before the meeting, U.S. President Bill Clinton sent a "personal letter" to Kim Yong-sam the puppet, "reaffirming the United States' commitment to defending South Korea" and its determination "to strengthen the joint U.S.-South Korean defense posture."

NODONG SINMUN today brands the puppets' fuss at "Chongwadae" as a reckless act to deliberately bring the situation to the phase of war after breaking up the working-level contact for the exchange of presidential envoys between the North and South.

The news analyst says:

The Kim Yong-sam clique declared they would resume the Team Spirit joint military maneuvers against the fellow countrymen in the North and introduce Patriot missiles in a short time. This clearly shows they are a group of despicable traitors who seek a way out in harming fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces.

As we have declared time and again, we are fully prepared to answer dialogue with dialogue and war with war.

We are not afraid even if the South Korean puppets resume the Team Spirit joint military maneuvers and deploy in a short time Patriot missiles and anything more sophisticated.

We do not like an empty talk.

Our people and People's Army will severely punish the traitors attempting to stifle fellow countrymen in conspiracy with outside forces, and will resolutely defend our socialist motherland and the security of the nation.

The United States had better know that there is nothing to gain and nothing good for it even if it instigates and gives a shot in the arm to such a fool as Kim Yong-sam who is floundering in the mud as a target of overthrow, forsaken by the nation.

Chongnyon Releases Statement

*SK2303050094 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0442 GMT 23 Mar 94*

["Chongnyon Denounces the U.S., Japan and S. Korean Authorities"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 (KNS-KCNA) - The Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) released a statement Tuesday denouncing the U.S. arrogant acts to isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at any cost and accusing Japan and the South Korean authorities of following it.

The United States has all along departed from its agreement with the DPRK, reversed even the February 25 agreed conclusions on four steps of simultaneous action for a package solution to the nuclear issue—the suspension of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, the resumption of the working contact for the exchange of presidential envoys between the North and the South of Korea, inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency for the continuity of safeguards and the opening of the third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks—and brought the peaceful solution of the nuclear issue to an impasse again, the statement said, and went on:

The perfidious acts of the U.S. are very dangerous moves which may entail confrontation and war again on the Korean peninsula.

It is not fortuitous that the South Korean authority brought to a rupture the working contact for the exchange of presidential envoys between the North and the South. This is a logical result of his acts seeking confrontation and division, not reconciliation and reunification, while consistently following the United States, with no will and no capacity to resolve the nuclear issue on the peninsula.

He, who had blared in chorus with the U.S. that "the exchange of special envoys is a precondition of the third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks," decided on "a tough reaction" and cried for the introduction of Patriot missiles and the restarting of the "Team Spirit" at "a high-level strategic meeting" held while the working contact was under way.

Kim Yong-sam is going to visit Japan to discuss "international sanctions" against the DPRK. This is nothing

but an anti-national act to antagonize the fellow countrymen in the North with the backing of foreign forces.

It must not go unnoticed that the United States has fostered pressure on the DPRK, openly revealing its intention to take "sanctions" against it through the United Nations Security Council, while the Japanese authorities are zealously responding to it.

Recently, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa charged the DPRK with "the breach of the agreement," while closing his eyes to the U.S. failure to implement the agreement. This is a preposterous misrepresentation of the reality.

If the United States, Japan and the South Korean authorities continue acting against the demand of the Korean people and the world peace-loving people and the trend of the time, they will face a stern judgement by history.

Ambassador Warns U.S. Pressure Leading to War
LD2303110394 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0900 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] North Korea has warned that unless the United States stops its pressure tactic, it will mean war on the Korean peninsula. The warning by North Korea's ambassador to China, Chu Chang-chun, is the latest threat in the stand off over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program. Mr. Chu says the deployment of American Patriot missiles in South Korea will only accelerate the speed towards war on the Korean peninsula. The ambassador also says if international sanctions are imposed on North Korea, Pyongyang would, what he called, make the necessary response. From Beijing Ali Moore reports.

[Moore] North Korea's ambassador Chu Chang-chun says America should not forget the Korean war of the 1950's and should use the experience as a lesson. As well, he accused the United States of organizing international pressure against North Korea and said all the moves will only accelerate the speed towards war. If there is another war he said the United States and South Korea will be fully responsible. North Korea has a large diplomatic presence in China, its most important ally and trading partner. Chinese leaders say they oppose using pressure to resolve the nuclear dispute. Ali Moore, Beijing.

Military Alert Status in South Criticized
SK2303104194 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1031 GMT 23 Mar 94

["War Provokers Will Have To Pay Dearly for It"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Yong-sam reportedly told "a meeting of security-related officials" on March 21 that "a perfect military security posture" should be established. And, on March 22, he issued even a belligerent "order" to the puppet Army units to be "on the alert".

Accordingly, the puppet Joint Chiefs of Staff proclaimed "an order of special alert" covering the period from March 23 to 30, putting the puppet ground, Navy and Air Forces on "a war footing".

Thus, the South Korean trigger-happy elements are madly pushing the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

As is known to all, the Kim Yong-sam group, after unilaterally breaking up the working-level contact for the exchange of presidential envoys between the North and the South, openly declared that it would resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises with the United States, its master, and is driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to an extreme pitch of strain by introducing even Patriot missiles into South Korea of the United States.

The "order" of an "alert posture" which was issued on the extension line of such unpardonable dangerous military provocations against the North well shows to what extremes the traitor Kim Yong-sam has gone in his belligerent attempt to overpower the North by force of arms at any cost with the help of outside forces.

The North is prepared for both dialogue and war. This is its unshakable stand and will.

If the South Korean puppet clique venture a reckless war gamble, remaining deaf to the DPRK's repeated warnings, the North would take a decisive self-defensive measure against it.

Japanese Support for Sanctions Denounced
SK2303101694 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1005 GMT 23 Mar 94

["Dangerous Anti-DPRK Smear Campaign of Japanese Reactionaries"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The Japanese reactionaries are now openly blaring that if the United Nations Security Council "decided to take economic sanctions" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan would "join it," according to a report from Tokyo.

Against this background, Japanese Government officials reportedly began closed-door discussions of "economic sanctions" against the DPRK on March 22.

The non-existent "nuclear issue" of the DPRK is not a matter to be discussed by the United Nations Security Council. The attempt to take such "sanctions" through the United Nations against the DPRK on the charge of its refusal to accept an unwarrantable "nuclear inspection" is unjustifiable and unreasonable from the legal point of view and is a gross violation of the UN charter.

This is nothing but an offspring of such perfidious act of the United States as wholly reversing the agreed conclusions reached between the DPRK and the United States at the New York contact and its trite hostile policy toward Korea.

Nevertheless, the Japanese reactionaries, obtrusively enough, are showing extra zeal in "economic sanctions" against the DPRK, while adding fuel to the U.S. criminal scheme to take this step through the United Nations. This is an intolerable, grave challenge to the DPRK.

It is only too clear that they are seeking to isolate and stifle the DPRK at any cost by setting the "international cooperation system" in motion and, at the same time, add wings to their ambitious scheme to become a nuclear power, charging the DPRK with the "nuclear issue."

While keeping mum about their criminal design to turn Japan into a nuclear power any time, they are trying to take even unjustifiable "economic sanctions" against the DPRK, labelling this peace-loving nation as a "nuclear offender." This is a criminal act which may entail a perilous situation.

We have already declared that if seditious forces dare put unreasonable pressure upon us in the form of "sanctions," we would regard it as something equivalent to "a declaration of war."

In that case, there will be nothing good for Japan, either.

The Japanese reactionaries must properly judge the serious developments and promptly stop their reckless scheme of "economic sanctions" against the DPRK.

ROK Soldiers Urged To Heed 'People's Will'

SK2303094194 Pyongyang Radio Pyongyang in Korean to South Korea 0900 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Unattributed talk: "You Should Not Object to the People's Will" from the "Program for Officers and Men of the South Korean Armed Forces"]

[Text] Soldiers of the South Korean Armed Forces: Since a long time ago, our people have had an old saying that the people's will is the will of heaven, and if one objects to the people's will, one will be punished by heaven.

The will of heaven and punishment by heaven mean the intention of heaven and divine retribution.

This proverb contains a historic lesson that the people's will is just and if one objects to the people's demand, one cannot avoid punishment by heaven.

The disgraceful destiny of successive South Korean ruling groups clearly illustrates the consequences that were brought to one who objected to the will of the popular masses.

The successive South Korean ruling groups frantically ran amok with maneuvers of a northward war of aggression by carrying outside forces on its back and implemented a cruel fascist rule.

The act of the South Korean ruling groups went against the demand of the people who were aspiring to independence, democracy and reunification. The South Korean ruling groups reigned over the popular masses and ran wild with oppression. What was their destiny? We think that you, the soldiers of the South Korean Army, are well aware of it.

The successive South Korean ruling groups were overthrown because they only committed traitorous acts, going against the people's will and the nation's aspirations.

The civilian-veiled traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique is objecting to the will of the popular masses and the nation's demand more viciously than successive South Korean ruling bunches.

The most urgent demand of our people and nation at present is achievement of the peaceful reunification of the country. Our people, who suffered pains of division for nearly half a century, cannot live being separated from each other any longer and are looking forward to national reunification even in dreams.

To achieve the nation's peaceful reunification—our people's long-cherished desire—war exercises must be suspended on the Korean peninsula.

However, the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique is waging exercises of a northward war of aggression every day by carrying outside forces on its back by challenging the people's desire for reunification, and is driving you, the soldiers of the South Korean Army, into these exercises.

You, the soldiers of the South Korean Army, should not traverse the road of objecting the people's will by following the order of the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique.

History is the course of achieving the demand of the popular masses. No strength can block our people's desire for national reunification. The traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique, which challenged our people's desire for national reunification, will be judged by history and will not be able to avoid the collapse.

You, the soldiers of the South Korean Army, who are the young men of Korea, should not spoil your destiny by traversing the road of objecting the people's intention on the side of traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique.

You, the soldiers in the 3d Battalion, 51st Regiment, 12th Division of the puppet Army, who are barely keeping up your bodies being driven into various exercises and hard work, and you, the soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 63d Regiment, 11th Division of the puppet Army, who witnessed the death of colleagues caused by

accidents during training some time ago, should deeply examine yourselves who have fallen into disaster and misfortune.

If you want to get rid of the miserable situation, you should travel the road of patriotism on which you can share the intention of the people. This is the very hope of your parents and brothers, and is the nation's demand.

You, the soldiers of the South Korean Army, should rise on the road of patriotism to share the intention of the people and should seek a genuine life.

KCNA Cites Foreign Demands on ROK Prisoners
SK2203110494 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1017 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—Political and public circles of different countries strongly demanded the release of South Korean long-term prisoners who refused to be converted.

Rolf Hagel, chairman of the Workers' Party Communists of Sweden, in a statement March 10 said the South Korean authorities keep An Hak-sop, an old man, behind bars for more than 40 years on the charge of being a "spy" of North Korea merely because he refused to recant his belief in communism. They take to prison and put to torture not only communists but many figures who call for a peaceful reunification of Korea and democratization of society, by invoking the "National Security Law", he noted.

He demanded that the South Korean authorities abolish the "National Security Law" immediately, release unconditionally all the unconverted long-term prisoners including An Hak-sop now suffering in prison and repatriate Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan.

Nzamba Yangana, chief of the Zairean youth group for the study of the chuche idea, in a statement March 11 said that the struggle of An Hak-sop, who is an old man, for the reunification of the country cannot be a "crime" but a proud patriotic deed of a righteous son of the nation.

He demanded that the South Korean authorities release An Hak-sop at once, scrap immediately the "National Security Law", an obstacle to reunification, and unconditionally release all the unconverted long-term prisoners who have devoted their all to the reunification of the country.

The Burundi-Korea Friendship Association in a letter to the South Korean authority on March 9 strongly urged the unconditional and immediate release of An Hak-sop and the prompt abolition of the "National Security Law".

Japanese Group Urges South on Political Prisoners

SK2303104994 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1026 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—Shigeru Yoshimatsu, representative of Japan's National Council of Societies to save Japan-born Korean political prisoners in South Korea, recently issued a statement demanding that Kim Yong-sam release all the Japan-born Korean political prisoners in South Korea before visiting Japan.

The statement said that when the Kim Yong-sam "government" emerged as a "civilian government" the council expected that all of the political prisoners would be released, but none of the Japan-born Korean political prisoners has been set free.

Although the abolition of the "National Security Law", an evil law making people political prisoners, has been demanded strongly, it still remains, said the statement.

The South Korean authorities must scrap at an early date the "National Security Law," a leftover of the cold war era, that defines fellow countrymen as the enemy and suppresses the pro-reunification movement, urged the statement, expressing opposition to Kim Yong-sam's visit to Japan.

South's 'Suppression' of Workers Decried

SK2303052494 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0511 GMT 23 Mar 94

["S. Korean Workers' Struggle for Right to Existence Supported"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The spring action of workers for a wage hike in South Korea is a just struggle for the elementary right to existence, says MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today.

Noting that workers employed by comprador businesses in Seoul, Pusan and other areas are waging a struggle, shouting such slogans as "The Authorities' Wage-Curbing Policy Is a Policy Killing Workers" and "Increase Wages", the news analyst says:

Their demand for a higher wage is a demand for a reward for their labour and for the right and conditions for a life befitting humanity.

Nevertheless, the Kim Yong-sam clique is trying to pacify the workers in their just struggle to be paid for their labour, urging them to "share hardships" and "restrain their demand," while insulting their struggle as "collective egoism" and an "illegal act" and, furthermore, blackmailing them by invoking the fascist "emergency arbitration power", which had not been used even in the "Fifth and Sixth Republics", threatening "a tough countermeasure".

But no suppression can block the workers' struggle.

The South Korean workers have no more room to step backward from the present life of barest subsistence.

KCNA Reports Criticism of Kim Yong-sam Reforms

*SK2303103394 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1023 GMT 23 Mar 94*

["Kim Yong-sam Regime's 'Reform,' a Solo Play"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The deceptive nature of the "reform" advertised by the traitor Kim Yong-sam is being laid bare in South Korea.

Tan Pyong-ho, chairman of the National Council of Trade Unions, criticized the Kim Yong-sam regime's "reform" as an exceptionally anti-popular mode of rule.

The Social Justice Study and Practice Society and other organisations at a symposium on Kim Yong-sam's "reform" stressed that though the "civilian government" hung out the flowery signboard of "reform" it has in actuality employed the anti-popular ruling method of the military fascist dictatorial regimes and has reformed nothing in political, economic, educational and all other domains.

The HANGYORE SINMUN newspaper charged that though the "civilian government" cried for "liquidation of corruption" and "change and reform" it keeps Kim Chong-pil, a chief culprit of the "May 16 coup d'etat", in power and defends him. The newspaper defined the present regime's "reform" as "a solo play for a rule minus politics."

The opposition Democratic Party opened to the public the ten major crimes committed by the Kim Yong-sam puppet government over the last year since its emergence, saying that the deceptive nature of the "reform" is proved by the soaring prices caused by the anti-popular policy, treacherous opening of the agro-market, suspension of North-South dialogue resulting from the anti-reunification policy, serious pollution of the environment and never-ceasing disasters.

Hanminjon Condemns ROK on Rice Market Opening

*SK2303061494 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0432 GMT 23 Mar 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The worker-peasant department of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) issued a message of indignation March 17 denouncing the traitor Kim Yong-sam's criminal opening of the rice market, the Seoul-based Radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

The message said:

The nightmarish opening of the rice market in South Korea is a never-to-be-condoned crime which results from the flunkeyist treachery of Kim Yong-sam who flatteringly yielded to the brigandish pressure from U.S. imperialism. It is intolerable that he claims "there will be more things gained than lost" in rice market opening.

Due to the Kim Yong-sam traitorous group, the six million farmers of South Korea are deprived of fields and means of livelihood.

The only way for us to get rid of the miserable lot today is to cut the colonial noose of the United States through the anti-U.S. struggle for independence and decisively overthrow Kim Yong-sam, a pro-U.S. flunkeyist and rare traitor.

The message called on the South Korean farmers to rise up in struggle and resolutely check the rice market opening ruinous to the nation, overthrow the Kim Yong-sam "government" and drive out the United States.

Chondoist, Tangun Taejonggyo Leaders Meet

*SK2303110094 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1041 GMT 23 Mar 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—A contact between Yu Mi-yong, chairperson of the Central Guidance Committee of the Korean Chondoist Association, and An Ho-sang, leader of the Tangun Taejonggyo in South Korea, was held in Beijing on March 12 and 14.

At the contact, they openheartedly discussed matters of common concern, including the tasks facing the Chondoists and Tangun Taejonggyo believers in the North and South of Korea in achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the country through the great unity of the whole nation.

An agreement was adopted at the contact, which says:

"Considering that the great unity of the whole nation fully accords with the Chondoist idea of concord and the Tangun Taejonggyo's spirit of promoting human interests, the Chondoists and Tangun Taejonggyo believers in the North and South will make joint efforts to achieve great national unity on the principle of subordinating everything to national reunification, the common cherished desire of the nation, as Paedai (Korean) nationals, transcending the differences in ideology and social system, and to achieve the country's reunification, the supreme task of the nation, on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

"The Chondoists and Tangun Taejonggyo believers in the North and South will make joint efforts to accomplish the cause of national reunification in the 1990s without fail through mutual contact and dialogue.

"The recent disinterment and scientific study of the Tomb of Tangun in Pyongyang was a historic event

which confirmed that the Korean nation is a homogeneous nation that has developed a long history of five thousand years and brilliant culture, with Tangun, a real person, as its father.

"The chairperson of the Central Guidance Committee of the Korean Chondoist Association invited delegates of Tangun Taejonggyo in South Korea to visit Pyongyang and participate in the ceremony for the completion of the Tomb of Tangun after its reconstruction, and the leader of Tangun Taejonggyo invited delegates of Chondoists in the Northern half to visit Seoul. On that basis, the sides confirmed each other's willingness to dispatch their delegates to Pyongyang and Seoul in the convenient time.

"The Central Guidance Committee of the Korean Chondoist Association will deeply study the proposals of the South Korean religious leader—the North and the South should jointly observe the national foundation day and other traditional functions as proposed by the religious leader of South Korea, define and restore holy places of Tangun in North and South and hold an academic seminar of scholars in North, South and overseas on Tangun in an appropriate time and the Northern headquarters of Tangun Taejonggyo be set up—and then inform the competent organ of the result.

"The sides promised to make active efforts to carry the agreed points into practice."

Defense Officials Meet With Cambodian Visitors

*SK2203151894 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1503 GMT 22 Mar 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—Talks were held here today between a military delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the visiting high-level delegation of the Defence Ministry of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Present there on the Korean side were Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u and generals and officers of the Korean People's Army and on the opposite side were the members of the delegation headed by Co-Ministers of Defence Tia Banh and Tia Chambrat and councillor of the Cambodian embassy in Pyongyang.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Activities, Articles Commemorate Day of Pakistan

Newspapers Mark Occasion

*SK2303103294 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1019 GMT 23 Mar 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the Day of Pakistan.

The Pakistani people have made successes in the past in their efforts to consolidate the independence of the

country, ensure national unity and develop the national economy, MINJU CHOSON in a by-lined article says, and continues:

Korea and Pakistan, both Asian countries, established friendly bonds for the commonness of their past positions and the goal of their struggle today.

Especially, the Korea visit by Her Excellency Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan, at the end of last year is a clear proof of the friendship and solidarity further strengthening and developing between the two peoples.

The Pakistani Government and people express feelings of boundless respect to and reverence for the great leader President Kim Il-sung and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and extend support and solidarity to the Korean people in their just struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The Korean people wish the Pakistani people greater success in their efforts to achieve the national unity and attain an independent development of the country.

NODONG SINMUN introduces the time-honored history of culture of Pakistan, saying all the ancient remains and relics are associated with the high creative wisdom and talents of the Pakistani people.

Officials Observe Pakistan Day

*SK2303070694 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0528 GMT 23 Mar 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—A film show and a friendship gathering were held here Tuesday on the Day of Pakistan.

Invited there were charge d'affaires ad interim of the Pakistani Embassy here Shafqat Ali Cheema and embassy officials.

Present were Chong Ha-chol, chairman of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and chairman of the Korea-Pakistan Friendship Association, Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairperson of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and other officials concerned.

The participants saw an art performance of students of the Korea-Pakistan Friendship Pyongyang June 9 Senior Middle School and appreciated a Pakistani documentary film.

Kim Il-sung Sends Greetings

*SK2203110694 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 22 Mar 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on the Day of Pakistan.

President Kim Il-sung in his message wished the president and people of Pakistan greater success in their work and expressed the belief that the friendly relations and useful cooperation between the two countries would continue to expand and develop.

Economic Delegation Leaves for Pakistan
SK2203152194 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1505 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—An economic delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam left Pyongyang today for a visit to Pakistan.

It was seen off at the airport by Yi Song-tae, chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission and Shafqat Ali Cheema, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Pakistan Embassy in Pyongyang.

Kim Chong-il Thanks Units, Workers
SK2203105894 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1033 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, sent thanks to the Ministry of Local Industries, the Pyongyang Changgwang garment factory, the children's foodstuff factory, the Kangdong County, Pyongyang municipality, Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Sinhung-ri, Kangnam County, party committee, the management office of materials supply for external service centers, the Yonsan garment factory in North Hwanghae Province, the Pyongyang Tangogi restaurant, the Pyongyang grey mullet restaurant, the Pyongchon district management office of manufactured goods and the Chilgol restaurant in Mangyongdae district, which had set examples in aiding the People's Army.

He also extended thanks to the employees of the Tae-donggang Hotel, the Nakwon Department Store, the Koryo tea house under the Koryo general bureau of services, Yun Hong-sun, director of the Korea Fish breeding joint-venture company under the general bureau of fish farming, and his family, Chae Kyong-suk, secretary of the central court and her family, and Hwang Kum-nan, a worker of the Nakwon Department Store, and her family, and other units, officials, and working people.

They had visited People's Army units several times and deepened the kindred feelings between the Army and people, congratulating the soldiers on their successes in combat training and political study, upholding the party's idea of Army-people unity.

Daily Hails Party as Impregnable Fortress

SK2303120494 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0710 GMT 14 Mar 94

[NODONG SINMUN 14 March "special article": "Our Party Is an Impregnable Fortress"]

[Text] Today our party is vigorously continuing to traverse the road of glorious struggle holding aloft the banner of socialism. Our party is leading the socialist cause down an ever-victorious road without the slightest degree of faltering despite all kinds of difficulties and barriers. In the course of this struggle our party is demonstrating its pride as a party of impregnable fortress. The party of impregnable fortress! This is the symbol of our party's greatness and invincibility. Our party is a mighty party, the ideology of which is great and the faith and will of which are incomparably strong and which is single-heartedly united. There is no such great party in the world.

Today our people are filled with the great dignity and honor of having the party of impregnable fortress led by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. They are burning with the firm faith and determination to fight more staunchly along the banner of the party.

1. Our Party Is a Party With Great Ideology

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The chuche, which is our party's world view, is a guiding ideology of our times that elucidates the most correct way for the realization of the independence of the popular masses.

The working class party is the general staff of the revolution and the guiding organization of socialist, communist construction. For the party to become the strong and mighty party that leads the socialist cause to victory, its ideology should be great. The party's guiding ideology is the fundamental idea [kibon inyom] that elucidates the purpose of the party's struggle and the principles and methods for its realization. The guiding ideology determines the party's character and regulates the basic direction of party building and party activities.

The party of the working class cannot only implant faith in the correctness and victory of its cause among party members and the people, but also achieve its ideological and volitional unity and cohesion and lead to victory the revolution and construction with correct strategies and tactics only when it has the great guiding ideology. For the party of the working class to have a correct guiding ideology is a serious problem that is closely related to the destiny of the party, that is, the destiny of socialism. The socialist ruling party collapsed in some countries in recent years. This was because they did not have a correct guiding ideology.

When one fails to carry out activities independently with one's own guiding ideology and fails to develop creatively one's own guiding ideology in conformity with

the aspirations of the times and people, one will inevitably encounter bitter failure and vicissitudes in party building, which will eventually result in creating a grave consequence of making a mess of the party itself.

Historic lessons have shown that when the party of the working class lacks a great ideology it is destined to become an enervated party like a club and cannot defend socialism from the maneuvers by the imperialists and the betrayers of the revolution.

Today our party has become a party of impregnable fortress because it has the great revolutionary ideology. Our party's only guiding ideology is the immortal *chuche* idea, that is, the ideology that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has developed and completed.

The correctness and vitality of the revolutionary ideology lie in how correctly the ideology reflects the independent demands and interests of the popular masses and how scientifically it has elucidated the way for their realization.

The dear comrade leader has developed and completed the *chuche* idea based on his scientific, deep insight into the demands of our times and the aspirations of the people. Our party's ideology and theory are the ever-victorious banner that leads the struggle for the popular masses' independence to victory and are also the revolutionary strategies and tactics that make it possible to defeat imperialism and to consummate the socialist cause, the cause of mankind's independence.

Our party has become the great and invincible revolutionary party that has not been shaken under any difficult circumstances because it has the great ideology and theory that are grouped with the respected name of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The might of our party that has the great ideology is boundless. That our party has been able to pioneer a most correct road in building the revolutionary party of the era of independence and to defend the banner of the revolution without the slightest trepidation, even when others were encountering difficulties and vicissitudes, is precisely because it carries out party building and party activities, taking the great ideology and theory as its guiding principle.

When we carry out party building and activities with the great ideology, we can be constantly strengthened and develop the party into an invincible, revolutionary party and can brilliantly implement the socialist cause. This is a valuable truth proven by our revolutionary practices.

Our party is, above all, thoroughly adhering to its revolutionary character as a *chuche*-type party because it has the great ideology. How the party adheres to its revolutionary character is an important question that is related to its prospects.

Missions, strategies, tactics, and the fighting way of the party can change in the course of progress of the revolution, but its revolutionary character cannot change.

Changes in the party's character cause a loss of the party's face [*tangui myonmoui sangail*] and result in a tragedy of its degeneration into a strange party.

The strength of the party is demonstrated in the way of thoroughly adhering to its revolutionary character. The party's guiding ideology is essential in adhering to its revolutionary character. If its guiding ideology is great, the party will not flutter no matter how the imperialists and reactionaries maneuver to degenerate the party and can be constantly consolidated and developed along its own way. Today, our party can thoroughly adhere to its *chuche*-oriented character under any circumstances just because of its great ideology.

No matter how environments and conditions for the revolution change, the party's revolutionary character created by the leader [*suryong*] should thoroughly be adhered to. This is a firm position that the dear comrade leader sticks to in the party building. Based on this position, the dear comrade leader presented the party building program on modelling the entire party after the *chuche* idea and has wisely led the struggle to realize it.

In those days, the dear comrade leader generally systemized and completed the ideology and theory on the *chuche*-oriented party building and accumulated immortal achievements and valuable experience in party building. His achievements comprehend all theoretical and practical problems in building the revolutionary party—including the question on party building and its activities with the *chuche* idea as a guiding principle, the policies of building the party as a party for the working popular masses, of firmly guaranteeing the unitary ideology and leadership in the party, of considering the party's unity a primary task in party building, and of preparing the party based on the ideology, as well as the question on imbuing the society with a single ideology and firmly realizing the political leadership for the entire society.

Thanks to the ideology for *chuche*-oriented party building elucidated by the dear comrade leader, our party is proceeding with the party building and its activities without the slightest deviation or vicissitude and is firmly adhering to its revolutionary character.

Our party is arming party cadres and members with the *chuche* idea and preparing them to become *chuche*-type communist revolutionaries who actively struggle to realize the *chuche* idea. At the same time, our party is firmly adhering to the purity of the *chuche* idea and is uncompromisingly fighting against all old ideologies that contradict it, such as bourgeois and revisionist ideologies, so that it can prevent any strange ideology from penetrating our party.

Because it has the great ideology, our party has hardened its organizational and ideological basis and has consolidated and strengthened the single-hearted unity of the entire party.

No matter how far the revolution advances, and no matter how vicious the imperialists and reactionaries maneuver, our party will continue its blood line unblemished and will shine forever as a *chuche*-type revolutionary party.

With the great ideology as a guiding principle, our party is also brilliantly developing the future of socialism, overcoming any trial and obstacle. The road toward socialism is an untrodden road to be developed totally anew as well as a road of severe struggle, along which we should advance in an acute confrontation with the imperialists. Therefore, it is matter of course that there are obstacles and trials in the course of advance toward socialism and that unexpected incidents may occur.

In order to stoutly push ahead with the struggle to complete socialism without the slightest vicissitude, the party must have scientific ideology and correct strategies and tactics. The party with the great ideology never pulls down the socialist banner until it accomplishes its historic mission and advances even more stoutly, filled with faith and optimism.

Our party has the great socialist, communist building ideology and theory that enable it to victoriously lead the revolution and construction according to the demand of reality.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il presaged the inevitability [*happopchiksong*] of socialist construction and the people's desire with his extraordinary wisdom and scientific insight a long time ago, and has brilliantly completed the ideology and theory for *chuche*-oriented socialist, communist construction.

Our party's ideology and theory are a great communist theory on occupying the ideological and material fortresses of socialism by remolding the nature, the society, and human beings in accordance with the *chuche* demand, under the banner of modelling the entire society after the *chuche* idea. It is also an encyclopedic theory, with which we can brilliantly solve all problems arising in the course of the revolution and construction. Because it is leading the revolution and construction with this great ideology and theory as its guiding principle, our party is brilliantly developing the future of socialism without the slightest deviation or vicissitude.

Without fluttering even when others were loudly talking that they would reform and reorganize socialism [*namduri sahoejuirul kaehyokhago kaepyonhandago ttodurodael ttacedo*], our party has been able to further strengthen its leadership and advance toward socialism with confidence, adhering to the Taean work system and the rural theses, just because it considers the great ideology and theory its guiding principle. This is the basic factor that has enabled our party to protect and defend socialism of our own style and to accelerate the revolution and construction.

The wise leadership of our party, which is pioneering the course of socialism with the great ideology, was clearly

demonstrated when the grave incident of frustration of socialism occurred in some countries. When imperialists and reactionaries talked as if socialism had come to an end and when people who desire socialism lost their faith, our party scientifically elucidated the way to correctly explain the substance of the incident and to rebuild the socialist movement. This is a great historic contribution that can be made only by a party with its own great guiding ideology.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's works—such as "Historic Lessons of Socialist Construction and Our Party's General Line," "On Fundamental Questions on Revolutionary Party Building," and "Disturbance of Socialism Cannot Be Allowed"—vigorously demonstrate the greatness and justness of our party's ideology and theory that advance the socialist cause victoriously.

Not only our people but also the revolutionary people of the world firmly believe that, when they adhere to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideology and theory, they can sternly smash all antisocialist maneuvers by imperialists and reactionaries and can achieve the ultimate victory of the socialist cause.

Since it has the great ideology, our party is displaying its high esteem and honor as a great guide [*hyangdoja*] that pioneers the socialist cause at the forefront through severe trials in history.

2. Our Party Is a Party With Fearlessly Strong Faith and Will

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il noted: Our party has never given in its faith and will under any offensive by the enemy. It has advanced through severe trials with such faith and will.

The party cause is a difficult and complicated struggle through manifold trials and hardships. In order for the party to fulfill its sublime mission, it must have not only the great ideology but also faith and will with which to realize it to the end. The invincible faith that would rather break than bend! The invincible will with which the party never recedes from the road of revolution even if the world overturns tens of hundreds of times! The principle that the party never pulls down the revolutionary banner until it achieves the ultimate victory of the revolution! These are uncommon traits of the party that are carrying out the revolution. When the entire party is filled with such invincible faith and will, the party can demonstrate itself as an impregnable party.

A party with firm faith and will that is unswayable in any trend of the time will never be destroyed or degenerated by any offensive by the enemy. Just like the people's revolutionary spirit is determined by the depth of their faith, the party's might and solidity are guaranteed by the resoluteness of its revolutionary faith. Faith and determination that the party keeps in leading the revolution are decisive factors that influence the destinies of the country and the nation.

The long history of the communist movement has many actual examples showing that the revolution was frustrated and people fell into misery because of unstable determination. The faith of the working class party and its leader [yongdoja], which are responsible for the destinies of the country and the nation, did not become unstable.

Inconsistent faith and weak will can never be allowed on the arduous road of struggle, on which even a single misstep may cause one to fall into subordination, servitude, frustration, and failure. The party's faith is the destiny and future of the revolution. Only a party with stout faith and will can overcome severe difficulties in the revolution and can lead the people to the heroic struggle and feats. Because it has iron-firm faith and will, our party wins honor as an impregnable party and as an ever-victorious party that never loses.

All our party's activities and struggle are run through with the firm determination to advance along the single chuche road pioneered by the great leader [suryong] and with the perfect faith and will to lead the people to consummate the socialist cause.

This determination and will have their roots in the Paektu revolutionary spirit created in an early stage of pioneering the revolution, and they have been firmly hardened through the severe class struggle and the huge struggle for creation and construction.

Therefore, our party's faith and will are not shaken even in the fierce political, military, and ideological confrontation with the enemy, and have become stouter as generations are shifted and as the revolution advances further. Herein is the reason the people of the world call the Worker's Party of Korea [WPK] an iron party.

As it has invincible faith and will, our party has become the great party that changes an adverse situation into a favorable one by bravely smashing any antisocialist maneuver by the imperialists.

The confrontation with the enemy is the confrontation of strength and of faith and will. Only with faith and courage to free oneself from being afraid of any threat, blackmail, and powerful enemy, one can win a victory without fail. This is why we call the victory of the revolution the victory of faith and will.

Today, imperialists are taking an unprecedented offensive in all areas—political, military, and economic—to isolate and ruin [malsal] our Republic, the fortress of socialism. Today, when socialism has been frustrated in some countries, the world reactionaries' antisocialist maneuvers aim at us.

Although our party is leading the revolution in this acute political and military confrontation, it has never fumbled or fluttered under the enemy's antirevolutionary offensive. The more the imperialists highhandedly put pressure on it, our party copes with it with the spirit of untiring patience and smashes an antirevolutionary

offensive with a revolutionary offensive. This is the stout trait of the WPK under the leadership of General Kim Chong-il, an iron-willed, sagacious general.

Any threat with nuclear weapons or slandering agitation can never work with our party and people. It is no accident that the conscientious people of the world, who can look straight at the reality, warn imperialists to be well aware what rival [sangdae] they are facing.

Since it has invincible, firm faith, and will, our party is always strong and stern in the confrontation with the imperialists. When the enemy created a dangerous situation on the brink of war, our party responded to it with the great decision by announcing the semi-war state in the entire country, all the people, and the entire Army. When the enemy maneuvered to demolish [wahae] us with crafty pacification strategy, our party smashed it with bold and clever tactics, taking the initiative.

Today, our people are accelerating the socialist construction with the fighting spirit to annihilate the aggressors, who try to harm our socialism, while singing the song of faith that one can win victory when one keeps socialism, and one will die when one abandons it. This is because they have the same invincible faith and offensive spirit [konggyok chongin] as that of our party.

As long as our people's struggle is under the leadership of our party, which has the stoutest faith and will, its history will shine as an ever-victorious history of struggle of changing an adverse situation into a favorable one and of turning misfortune into a blessing.

Because of its firm revolutionary faith and will, our party is demonstrating its mighty appearance as a most revolutionary party that never retreats even a step from the principle of the revolution. The process in which socialism is victorious is the process in which the principle of the revolution is defended and embodied. In the revolutionary struggle, the principle of the revolution is always precious as life—yesterday, today, and in the future, too. In the struggle to determine socialism or capitalism standing back from the principle of the revolution itself is synonymous with surrender.

How to deal with the principle of the revolution and how to defend it is precisely an important touchstone which shows the firmness of the faith of the working class party and its combat capability and might. The character of our party's resolute revolutionary principle has already been known to the world. Even in the early period when modern revisionism emerged, our party repelled any pressure from big countries and firmly defended its chuche-oriented revolutionary line. Even in the period when the trend of modern socialist democracy emerged, our party never stood back from the principle of the revolution.

The principle is victorious without fail, and even though the circumstances and conditions of the revolutionary struggle may vary, the basic ideal and demands of

socialism can never change. This is precisely the revolutionary position to which our party has firmly adhered.

It is easy to speak about faithfulness to the principle of the revolution, but it is not easy to put it into practice. This is more true today, at a time when the wind of antisocialism is sweeping. However, our party has firmly and invariably adhered to the basic principles of socialism, including the principle of realizing the party's unitary leadership in the revolution and construction, cherishing firm will. To be faithful to the principles of socialism, it is imperative to have firm faith, and to render this firm faith absolutely and invariably. This is precisely the noble truth that has been proven by the struggle history of our party.

Because of its firm faith and will our party has also become an invincible revolutionary party that is capable of fulfilling without fail any vast tasks arising in socialist construction.

The might of the working class party lies in the power of the practice of changing the socialist ideal into a great reality. The party that fails to carry out the struggle task once it has promised the people, cannot enjoy support from the people or maintain dignity.

The history of our party's struggle is a history of stubbornness and a history of heroic exploits, as—upon setting a bold attacking target—it has occupied that target and has been constantly occupying a new attacking position in succession. The power of will that our party displayed on these days was beyond our imagination. Once our party decides to carry out a task, it fulfills it without fail. This is our party's disposition. Once our party has started to carry out a task it pushes ahead with it until it is finished. This is our party's (Thabit).

Smashing the maneuvers of the enemies of the revolution with rock-firm will if they provoke and breaking through the mountains with indomitable spirit of attack if they block is precisely the inherent struggle spirit of our party. The huge locomotive of the Korean revolution that is dashing toward the terminal of communism has been running to today's plane on the strength of this faith and will of our party.

Our party is faced with the heavy but honorable task to cultivate political and economic strength capable of living independently under any difficult circumstances and to fully enhance the superiority of socialism of our own style. Each of the struggle tasks that our party carried out in the past were not easy. However, today's revolutionary tasks of our party are more vast and difficult. Despite such a situation, our party's determination and will to turn our Republic into a firm fortress of socialism by thoroughly embodying the revolutionary economic strategy and by firmly deepening the country's national defense capability are firm and invariable.

Our party's matchless courage and its strong power of decision and rock-firm will have constantly bestowed faith and courage in the victory of the revolution upon

our people. Whenever our party made a courageous decision and a strong measure that shook the social circles of the world our people's hearts were seething with the dignity and pride that our party is the first and our Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il is the first.

In the dark period of national suffering our people waged an indomitable struggle, looking ahead to the future of national liberation. Likewise, our people are struggling with firm faith, looking ahead to the bright future of socialism of our own style from the might of the Workers' Party of Korea. This is today's proud appearance of our people. For our people who have the party of impregnable fortress there is nothing to fear and there is no task that cannot be carried out.

With the resolute faith and will embraced by the party, our people will all the more vigorously accelerate the general march of socialism of our own style, and will wholly demonstrate the indomitable spirit of the heroic people who do not know defeat or retreat in that road.

3. Our Party Is a Party of Single-Hearted Unity

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: We can say today with confidence that our party achieved cohesion and unity that is most solid and has the greatest vitality in which it cannot be frustrated in whatever way and which can overcome any kind of trial.

Unity is the party's might and the source of invincibility. The party itself cannot exist and strengthen apart from the revolutionary unity. Therefore, we are saying that one of the most important signs of the revolutionary party—the party of impregnable fortress—that does not waver in any kind of hardship of history, lies in the revolutionary unity.

When looking back at history, there were no parties that did not uphold the banner of unity among the working class parties that exist up till the present. Then what is the reason for the collapse of parties that have magnificent tradition and a long history? This is because the parties did not carry out the struggle to achieve a true revolutionary unity.

The most solid and mighty unity among unity is the single-hearted unity. The single-hearted unity is consisted of only one ideology and one center. It is also based on one bloodline being succeeded generation after generation.

If we achieve single-hearted unity, then we can smash [chitbusida] any powerful enemy and acquire the universe. In the historical communist movement, the WPK was the first party to achieve this great single-hearted unity. Therefore, it is becoming a party of impregnable fortress in which the whole world is admiring.

Our party's single-hearted unity has currently risen to the most lofty height under the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. In our party, we have already

completed the historical cause that builds the party's organizational and ideological basis.

Therefore, our party is becoming an iron-willed rank in which the whole party is firmly uniting around the great leader [yongdoja], who is succeeding the revolutionary cause, through ideological will, morality, and sense of duty. Also, our party is becoming an invincible party in which whatever element cannot weaken the party's political and ideological integrity and unity.

The might of our party's single-hearted unity is most of all being manifested by the fact that the whole party is overflowing with the absolute admiration of endlessly cherishing and following its leader [yongdoja]. In essence, the work to realize the party's cohesion and unity is the work to strengthen the blood-tied relationship between the leader [yongdoja] leading the party and the party members who comprehend the party.

Only when the leader [yongdoja] is great and when all the party members united around the leader [yongdoja] have a thorough faith and sense of duty, can this kind of unity become an invincible cohesion and unity that overcomes any kind of trials and difficulties.

Unity based on practical unity and obligation cannot last long and cannot manifest the invincible might. In our party, we are highly upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the center of unity and center of leadership. Therefore, the blood-tied relationship, which cannot be severed even if we wanted to, between the leader [yongdoja] and fighters was firmly formed.

This resolute relationship is based on absolute admiration of their leader [yongdoja], which is deeply rooted in the hearts of our party members through the long experiences of practical life. Thus, this has eternal vitality.

Our party members are singing the song by Comrade Yi In-mo, "We win if you are with us," and are carrying on their party life bearing his dedicated poem deep in their hearts, for in this poem and song is reflected the firm, invariable outlook on the leader of the revolutionary fighter. The absolute mind of reverence the WPK members have—this is the fascination toward the dear comrade leader, the great iron-willed man and the incarnation of the great faith and will; the invariable conviction that our fatherland and socialism exist because he is with us; and the noble revolutionary conscience with which they are firmly determined to adhere to the revolutionary fidelity to the leader [yongdoja] who has brought them up. Because they have this ideology and spirit, our party members are waging a vigorous struggle with a resolve to become a gun and a bomb to protect and defend the party as they did during the last semi-war state period. Whenever they are assigned a difficult revolutionary task, they highly display unmatched devotion as a standard-bearer of the ranks.

Flawlessly pure and warm is our party members' mind to entrust the great leader [widachan yongdoja] with all their destiny and follow him to the end of the world.

Seeing the noble traits of our party members who adore the dear comrade leader day and night and send him many a letter of faith and loyalty, the people of the world cannot help admiring our party's might in which the leader and the fighter are wholeheartedly united. Because the millions of party members with indomitable conviction are upholding the great leader [widachan yongdoja], our party's unity and cohesion cannot be destroyed by anything, and the WPK displays its might to the entire world.

Our party's might of wholehearted unity is also demonstrated in the strong organization and discipline with which the entire party membership functions consistently according to the leader's ideology and volition. The revolutionary organization and discipline are the lifeline of the party, and it is an important yardstick showing its might of wholehearted unity. Only such a party that has succeeded in realizing wholehearted unity can function consistently according to the leader's ideology and volition, and can organize and mobilize the entire party membership vigorously toward the realization of a single objective. The party's might is the might of organization and discipline.

Our party has realized wholehearted unity without its parallel in history and has become a militant party with strong organization and discipline. In our party, a revolutionary leadership system has been firmly established, and all the party work and party activities are conducted thoroughly according to the dear comrade leader's ideology and volition. All the party organizations and party members always develop all work according to the party policy and implement the party's decisions and directives through fire and water to the end. This is the proud feature of our party.

In our party, the resolve of the leader [yongdoja] is the resolve of the party members. All the party members talk the same thing and walk at the same pace. Apart from this might of our party, which has firmly established firm order and discipline, we cannot mention the proud reality of our revolution in which the unitary nature of ideology and leadership is firmly ensured, nor can we think of the might of our country with which all the country, all the people, and the entire Army function consistently. Because of its strong organization and discipline which nothing can destroy, our party becomes a great party which invariably deals the revolution's enemy a powerful blow and which gives the people confidence and optimism.

Our party is neither a feeble party that is utterly disheartened faced with the trial of the revolution, nor a dispirited party that is crumbled in the revisionist inclination advocating liberalization and democracy. Our party's organization and discipline are unshakable today, and they will remain as strong as iron in the future as well. No counterrevolutionary maneuvers of the enemy of the revolution will be able to destroy our party's strong organization and discipline.

Our party's might, which is solidified like an impregnable fortress, consists in its taking root deep in the broad popular masses and commanding their absolute support. The popular masses are the foundation and root based on the working class party. The party which has departed from the popular masses, the party which cannot command the support of the masses is like a house of cards. As the strength of the popular masses is inexhaustible, so the party which is in firm unity with the people is ever-victorious.

Today, our party has not only achieved single-hearted unity in the party ranks, but struck its roots deep among the broad strata of the popular masses and won absolute support from them.

Our people have boundless pride in their party and cherish deep in their hearts the notion that they cannot live even for a moment without the party.

The belief of our heroic working class is that our party is the best because it has built a working class-oriented society, and the will of our farmers is that they would defend and maintain the socialist rural economic system to the end under the party's leadership. Our intellectuals have a great honor to be the party's eternal companions, sincere supporters, and excellent advisers, and the young people of the new generation are filled with the pride of being the young vanguards of the WPK. This is a testament to the fact that the WPK is an invincible party that has blood ties with people from all walks of life and leads the revolution with their absolute support and trust.

In particular, our party and the People's Army are one in flesh and spirit. This is great pride incomparable to anything else. A revolutionary army is the defender of the party's cause, the socialist cause. A party that wins no support or trust from a revolutionary army and fails to take deep roots in the army cannot defend socialism against the imperialists' aggression maneuvers or lead the revolution to victory.

The military discipline of the People's Army, which is boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader [suryong] and moves like one under the party's leadership, is very excellent. Our People's Army officers and men are filled with a firm resolve to entrust their entire destinies to General Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander, and be the first to resolutely defend the party and the leader [suryong] by becoming guns and bombs.

Our party is powerful, and the security of our fatherland is firmly guaranteed because there is the People's Army, which has grown into an invincible powerful Army under the comrade supreme commander's leadership.

The invincible might of our party, which has struck its roots deep among the workers, farmers, soldiers, intellectuals, and popular masses from all other walks of life, is fully demonstrated in revolution and construction. We crush any challenge by the imperialists, resolutely defend and maintain socialism of our own style, and score great

upsurges in revolution and construction because we have this might of single-hearted unity.

The invincibility of socialism of our own style and its bright prospects lie in blood unity among the party, people, and Army that are strongly united around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Truly, our party is a party that achieved the most solid and vital unity and cohesion never before seen in history and an invincible party that has blood ties with the popular masses. No power in the world can match this steel-like party.

Having an impregnable party is our people's greatest happiness and honor. Because there is our party led by General Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander, our country takes pride in being a powerful socialist country no one dares to provoke; our people take pride in being heroic people with combant disposition who are always in the habit of winning; and our People's Army takes pride in being an invincible revolutionary Army that makes it its conviction to win every war.

Because the party is mighty, socialism of our own style wins victory after victory without shaking. Our party today takes pride in being an impregnable party, entirely because it upholds the iron-willed general and great leader of the revolution [kangchorui yongjang hyongmyongui widaehan yongdoja].

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great leader [widaehan yongdoja] who strengthens and develops our party into an invincible revolutionary party under the banner of modeling the entire party after the chuche idea. Our party's great ideas are Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideas and theories, our party's belief and will is General Kim Chong-il's incomparable boldness and will, and our party's single-hearted unity is single-hearted unity around Comrade Kim Chong-il.

That our party casts its ray as an impregnable party because it upholds the great leader [yongdoja] is our party's proud reality today. Our party's might is boundless, and the party's prospects are boundlessly bright. Under this invincible party's leadership, we will win a victory in the cause of socialism of our own style and accomplish the historic cause of the fatherland's reunification after overcoming any wind or storm, defeat the imperialists, and hasten the cause of achieving independence throughout the world.

The revolutionary banner which our impregnable party hoists aloft will eternally fly with the strong belief that "Let the cowardice go his way, and but we will defend the red flag!"

The revolutionary cause of our people who, filled with confidence and optimism, are fighting under the banner of the great party, is ever-victorious!

Coal Industry Development, Growth Cited*SK2303070494 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0526 GMT 23 Mar 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The coal industry is developing in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The coal production grew 1.4 times during the period of the third seven-year plan (1987-1993).

The state has systematically increased investment in the coal industrial sector, attaching primary importance to its development. Big coal mines have been rebuilt on an expansion basis in Anju, Sunchon, northern and other coal-rich districts and many new promising ones built.

Scores of coal mines including the large-scale Soho and December 16 coal mines went into operation over the past 10 years. The Yipeok, Yongrim, Taehyang and other coal mines were built at the Anju district coal mining complex whose annual coal production capacity has now reached 15 million tons.

Projects for replacing mining equipment with large-sized, modern and high-speed ones have been completed at coal mines to increase the coal production capacity.

Coal production was 1.5 million tons in 1946, the year following the liberation of the country, and it increased to 27.5 million tons in 1970 and 85 million tons at the end of the 1980s.

The coal industrial domain now is concentrating big efforts on arranging new coal fields by giving precedence to prospecting while increasing the ongoing production. According to survey data, the nation's coal deposits amount to tens of billions of tons. Several billion tons of coal deposits have been discovered in Saepyo county of North Hamgyong Province, Paekam county of Yanggang Province and other places in recent years.

South Korea**UN Resolution Reportedly Leaves Out Sanctions***SK2303035494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0323 GMT
23 Mar 94*

[Text] United Nations, March 22 (YONHAP)—The five permanent members of the UN Security Council met Tuesday to put the finishing touches to a resolution due next week demanding that North Korea accept complete nuclear inspections.

Representatives from China, Russia, the United States, France and Britain held unofficial consultations in the afternoon. Council President Jean Bernard Merimier, French ambassador to the United Nations, said after the meeting that they had begun to deal with the North Korean nuclear problem but that the resolution under discussion contained no sanctions.

In essence, the U.S.-prepared resolution calls on North Korea to immediately invite International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts to fulfill inspection requirements.

It says the council has decided to consider additional steps if necessary, hinting at sanctions in veiled language to win the approval of North Korea's longstanding ally, China.

The council adopted a resolution last May after Pyongyang announced in March that it was bolting the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) to retaliate for IAEA inspection demands.

The draft of the second resolution emerged this week after the IAEA, following two weeks in North Korea, ruled it was not permitted to conduct a full inspection by Pyongyang and was thus unable to verify that North Korea had not diverted nuclear material for non-peaceful uses.

The resolution is expected to be adopted by consensus early next week after IAEA Director-General Hans Blix reports Thursday on where the situation now stands.

Five articles under the resolution ask the IAEA director-general to negotiate re-entry of the IAEA monitoring team into North Korea and to report the results to the council as soon as possible.

It urges South and North Korea to discuss implementing their agreement to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and asks all involved nations to help solve the problem.

The draft highlights the role of inter-Korean dialogue, saying the council reaffirms the importance of the agreement on denuclearization.

The resolution does not include harsh expressions such as "warn" or "sanctions," apparently in deference to China, which advocates diplomatic means and opposes sanctions.

But it leaves room for future action by suggesting the council's readiness to take additional steps.

Officials here said China did not express any specific opinions during the session.

Kim Yong-sam Discusses DPRK With Cabinet*SK2303040794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0341 GMT
23 Mar 94*

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Wednesday the government would keep open a dialogue channel with Pyongyang, while increasing cooperation with the United States, Japan, China, Russia and other countries in dealing with the North Korean nuclear problem.

Kim made the remarks at a breakfast he hosted for Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang, other cabinet members

and his senior secretaries at Chongwadae [presidential offices] prior to departing for Japan and China on state visits Thursday.

"North Korea is secretly developing nuclear arms despite its promise of denuclearization and is increasing propaganda broadcasts against the South to instigate people to topple the government," he said. "What we can and must do now is win this fight without a war."

Kim said he would use his meetings with Japanese Premier Morihiro Hosokawa and Chinese President Jiang Zemin as an opportunity to ask for their cooperation in settling the North Korean nuclear row.

"North Korea has been insincere and perfidious in the dialogue with us and I thus expected the dialogue to break down. But the situation that developed last Saturday was far beyond my imagination. I cannot help regarding the harsh language used by the chief North Korean delegate while reading from a prepared text, not as that spoken by the delegate himself but as words uttered by the supreme authority of Pyongyang."

The government should tell the people the truth to help develop its own national power, he stressed.

The government should not create a sense of crisis among the people, as its predecessors did in exaggerating the threat posed by a North Korean water attack, solely to establish its position more firmly.

The chief executive noted that irresponsible remarks are being made in certain quarters despite the fact that the people are aware of North Korea's intention since they have access to North Korean broadcasting through TV. He said the government should inform all citizens of any developments pertaining to their safety.

On the Patriot deployment, he said the anti-missile missiles are an improved version of those used in the Gulf war and will thus play an important part in the nation's defense.

Kim said he expects the UN Security Council will start with a mild resolution on North Korea, with the approach gradually escalating depending on Pyongyang's response. "The government will cooperate closely with the U.S. Government if developments in the dispute at the UN Security Council warrant such cooperation."

He said he had taken steps to ensure that he can receive reports from the government 24 hours a day during his seven-day tour of Japan and China.

Seoul Forced Into 'Hard-Line Corner' on DPRK
SK2203075294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0711 GMT
22 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—The Seoul government grabbed "the stick" and considered using it Tuesday as the International Atomic Energy Agency

[IAEA] sent the North Korean nuclear issue back to the United Nations Security Council.

The government's North Korea policy was finally pushed into a hard-line corner by the aggressive and crude remarks made by the chief North Korean delegate to an inter-Korean working-level contact last Saturday, when he threatened war against the South.

Realizing the futility of efforts to persuade Pyongyang to accept full IAEA inspections and help resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue, officials at Chongwadae [presidential office] and national security-related ministries huddled to discuss countermeasures against further North Korean provocation.

President Kim Yong-sam said Tuesday his government has asked the United States to deploy Patriot anti-missile missiles across the country as soon as possible.

South Korea and the United States have also agreed in principle to resume their joint military exercise "Team Spirit" this year. President Kim said a final decision on the war games will be made after he visits Japan and China.

Kim disclosed these plans at a meeting of senior Democratic Liberal Party officials including Chairman Kim Chong-pil and four party postholders.

Almost at the same time, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae met with U.S. Ambassador to Seoul James Laney and the commander of U.S. Forces in Korea, Gen. Gary Luck, to discuss the deployment of Patriot missiles here and the Team Spirit exercise.

Senior Presidential Secretary for Foreign and National Security Affairs Chong Chong-uk noted, "There has been nearly no change in North Korea's attitude since it announced its intention to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty last March.

"North Korea obviously wants to pursue its policy of improving relations with the United States while delaying inter-Korean dialogue with the eventual aim of eliminating Seoul's links with the United States," Chong said.

North Korea's use of "such a nuclear card," however, will no longer be effective, Chong declared.

At the hour-long breakfast meeting with ruling party leaders, President Kim expressed confidence that the South would repel any kind of provocation from North Korea.

After recalling all instances in which Pyongyang unilaterally frustrated Seoul's sincere attempts at dialogue and reconciliation, Kim said, "I did not expect the North to bring up talk of war last Saturday."

The matter was especially appalling because the North Korean chief delegate did not speak spontaneously but was reading a statement prepared earlier in Pyongyang, Kim said.

"Since we do not want the North isolated from the world community, we will leave the door open for dialogue," Kim said.

"But war should never break out on the Korean peninsula again under any circumstances. Preventing war is possible only when we are strong," Kim said, explaining his reason for ordering the deployment of Patriot missiles and considering resumption of Team Spirit this year.

The main opposition Democratic Party [DP], meanwhile, counselled the government Tuesday to refrain from "physical sanctions" against North Korea in favor of dialogue.

"If the government has determined that there is no immediate danger of war, it should be cautious in deciding on the deployment of the Patriot missiles and resumption of Team Spirit," said the party following a meeting of its policy-making Supreme Council.

"No one should be allowed to heighten tension on the Korean peninsula," the party said in a statement. "Resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue has to be made through a package deal."

The proposed exchange of special envoys between Seoul and Pyongyang will also have to be undertaken not as a precondition to resolve the issue but at the same time, the party said.

The DP then urged North Korea to accept IAEA inspection of its nuclear facilities to guarantee transparency of nuclear safeguards and apologize for the chief delegate's statement that "Seoul will turn into a sea of fire if war breaks out."

In addition, the opposition party pointed out that the Seoul government should have a consistent North Korea policy.

Kim Tae-chung, former chairman of the Democratic Party, said he "could not help being aghast at the sea-of-fire statement by the North Korean delegate," according to his spokesman, Chong Tong-chae.

Kim Tae-chung was extremely shocked after reading the remark, since the North Korean regime has been saying it was for "the people of Korea" whenever there was a chance.

Kim, however, advised South Korea to avoid being taken in by such an irrational provocation, Chong said.

Article Says IAEA Shirks Duty on North Issue
SK2303072294 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 23 Mar 94 p 2

[From the "Reporter's Memorandum" column by Chong Chong-sik, director of the European News Headquarters in Vienna: "International Atomic Energy Agency's 'Limitations'"]

[Text] It took a mere two hours and 15 minutes for the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to refer the North Korean nuclear issue to the UN Security Council.

All delegates to the IAEA Board of Governors looked relieved.

The IAEA dropped the North Korean nuclear issue as the United States and other powerful countries thought it would. They had chosen this approach among many possibilities because the IAEA governors would easily accept this formula without opposition.

It has been proven that this approach had been correctly chosen. Hours before the meeting began, it had been speculated that the meeting would conclude the discussion in a few hours. The IAEA spokesman frequently came out of the meeting room and smiled, as if to say that the meeting was progressing well.

When we analyze the entire scene, we realize that the IAEA does not want to do its duty regarding the North Korean nuclear issue. The IAEA should be involved in and resolve any nuclear issue worldwide. This time, however, the IAEA referred the North Korean nuclear issue to the UN Security Council, where "power" is applied to resolve issues. This, in a sense, is an act of shirking its duty, which the French delegate severely criticized.

When the governors cast votes on the IAEA resolution, they did so after examining if it would be correct for them to refer the North Korean nuclear issue to the 'power' of international politics, not if North Korea had really rejected nuclear inspections.

The UN Security Council will decide on the North Korean nuclear issue based on the interests of various member nations and the power structure of international politics. Each country involved, however, expressed its view on this issue at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting. A majority of governors voted for the resolution because they agreed they should deal with the North Korean nuclear issue by mustering the "will of the world" at the United Nations. Some of the governors abstained after examining their own interests and non-nuclear concerns.

Five among the 35 governors abstained. This means one-seventh expressed semiopposition on this issue.

The IAEA stressed that it would absolve North Korea anytime it receives nuclear inspections. The prevailing

opinion, however, was that no IAEA governor expected that North Korea would do so.

Kim Chong-il Hinted in Charge of Nuclear Issue
SK2303071594 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
0635 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Report by NAEWOE news agency]

[Text] On 23 March, North Korea hinted that Kim Chong-il is in charge of taking the stern countermeasures and military steps related with the nuclear inspection issue.

Pyongyang Pangsong [Pyongyang Radio Pyongyang in Korean to South Korea] in a program advertising Kim Chong-il today, recalled that its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty and the announcement on a semi-war state were made under Kim Chong-il's instructions. The broadcast then said: Kim Chong-il has turned the overall situation to our advantage and prevailed in confrontation with the enemies by kicking up counteroffensives against the enemies that scarcely allow them to catch their breath.

Assembly Holds Committee Hearings on DPRK
SK2303074994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT
23 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly's Foreign Affairs and National Unification and National Defense Committees met Wednesday to hear reports from the Kim administration on the escalating tension on the peninsula triggered by the North Korean nuclear dispute.

The committees also looked into the security situation as North Korea threatened war after rupturing the inter-Korean contact last Saturday, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) referred the nuclear issue to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions.

"In case North Korea changes its posture in order to avoid U.N. sanctions, the Kim administration will map out active measures to take the initiative on inter-Korean problems," Deputy Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok told the Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee.

Yi, also minister of the National Unification Board, said he will monitor North Korea's reaction to discussions at the U.N. Security Council.

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said the key to resolving the nuclear question lies in either U.N. sanctions or securing China's cooperation.

The government is expected to make a strong push for Chinese cooperation when President Kim visits Beijing next week, Han said.

"If North Korea determines that there is no possibility of improving its relations with the United States, it may take drastic action," Han said. "It is necessary to maintain a channel of dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang."

But as long as North Korea fails to honor its promises, there will be no third round of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks, Han said.

Neither South Korea nor the United States intends to compromise on the basic issues with North Korea, Han said.

The foreign minister also said the world community should refrain from adopting an emotional hard-line stance against Pyongyang that could backfire.

U.N. Security Council sanctions should be applied in stages, Han added.

Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae told the National Defense Committee that South Korea and the United States are currently negotiating the timing of the joint military exercise Team Spirit. Dates in late April, mid-May or sometime after June were mentioned, according to Yi.

"Since North Korea could not satisfy the two conditions for the suspension of Team Spirit, the resumption of the exercise this year is unavoidable," Yi said.

Practical military maneuvers such as river crossings and emergency landings will be added to the annual Team Spirit to realize the participation of the fewest troops for maximum effect, Yi said.

The Patriot anti-missile missiles, soon to be deployed by the U.S. Forces in Korea, will also be used in the exercise, he said.

One Patriot missile battalion is capable of taking on 55 incoming enemy aircraft, Yi said, adding that "its ability to destroy Scud missiles in the air is an additional function."

Yi said Seoul and Washington will determine the dates for Team Spirit with maximum training and demonstrative effects in mind. He said the military also hopes to avoid busy farming periods.

Once the two countries announce the resumption of the war games, it would be difficult to turn back, he said.

The defense minister said, "there are no signs that North Korea will launch a provocation within a short period of time."

"But we cannot rule out the possibility if the U.N. Security Council starts deliberating sanctions," he added.

In order to prepare for all eventualities, the government is working out measures in two stages—one before and the other after the U.N. Security Council decides on sanctions, Yi said.

In the first stage, the Armed Forces will strengthen surveillance, hold regular meetings of the South Korean-U.S. Military Committee, report on strategy to the commander of the allied forces and request that part of a rapid reaction force be deployed, he said.

Moreover, Yi said he will urge the government to request the United Nations to build up its deterrent potential, he said.

'No Signs of Aggression' by North Detected

SK2303084494 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 23 Mar 94 p 4

[Article by Kim Chong-tu: "There Is No Special Sign of Provocation From the North Korean Military"]

[Text] At the 19 March South-North working-level contact, North Korea made the remark: "Seoul will become a sea of fire." Since then, military authorities have been assiduously analyzing the true intention of such a remark and have been very sensitive to the conduct of the North Korean military. An analysis of their behavior since 22 March by military authorities reveals that such a remark stems from a high-powered strategy and tactic to occupy favorable ground in the negotiations with the South and the United States. No signs of aggression can be detected in the conduct of the North Korean military. According to military intelligence sources, the North Korean military is currently carrying out winter season training exercises. North Korea is carrying out large-scale military training exercises. It designates December to March as the winter season training period and July to August as the summer season training period. The winter season training period exercises, including joint infantry, tank, and artillery mobile exercises, are more intense than during the summer season training period. Regardless of the remark by the North Korean delegate, the recent conduct of the North Korean military shows that it is carrying out normal training. The only difference is that the intensity is enhanced and the number of training exercises has increased. This is a common method used when South-North dialogue and DPRK-U.S. talks are not progressing well.

Even though there is no clear sign of provocation attracting our interest, the Defense Ministry is not breaking its vigilant position because the North Korean military is increasing the number of training exercises, which is worthy of close attention. Including the armistice line region, North Korea deployed to the front line 65 percent of its ground forces; 60 percent of its vessels; and 40 percent of its fighter planes along the region south of Pyongyang and Wonsan. Therefore, North Korea, which has been propagandizing 1995 as the "year for reunification," completed a military deployment strong enough for a full large-scale invasion of the South. North

Korea has also sharply increased exercises that were reduced in 1980. Moreover, the frontline corps of the North Korean Army increased exercises by 40 percent, the Navy 15 percent, and the Air Force 30 percent, compared with last year. These actions are making the military authorities tense. The military is closely observing the moves by the North Korean military based on a list of approximately 100 signs indicating moves for a southward invasion. Not even 10 percent of the signs from the list have been observed in the current conduct of the North Korean military. Nevertheless, the military authorities are frequently holding contacts with U.S. forces stationed in the ROK to discuss the conduct of the North Korean military.

On 22 March, the Defense Ministry examined prolonging the "time-limited readiness," which has been carried out since 1 November 1993, until the crisis on the Korean peninsula is improved to some degree. Also, before and after President Kim Yong-sam's visit to Japan and China, a special alert was ordered for the whole Army. This is a measure that will allow an immediate reaction to a possible provocation from North Korea.

U.S. Mood on DPRK Nuclear Issue Assessed

SK2303031194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0159 GMT 23 Mar 94

[By Son Chae-kyu]

[Text] Washington, March 22 (YONHAP)—Talk of war on the Korean peninsula is flaring up again as the UN Security Council prepares a resolution on North Korea next week, but the prevalent feeling here is that it is just that—talk.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has already confirmed that Patriot missiles will be deployed in South Korea, and press reports here say the Pentagon is seriously considering additional measures such as strengthening American forces in South Korea, placing aircraft carriers near the peninsula and preparing for chemical warfare.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher added to the hysteria Tuesday, saying the effectiveness of U.S. diplomatic efforts is in doubt.

But working-level officials believe otherwise.

The WASHINGTON POST reported on the additional military measures on the Korean peninsula, while emphasizing that Washington has yet to set a definitive policy direction.

The Department of Defense has drawn up multiple contingency plans in case war breaks out anywhere in the world, and planning on the Korean peninsula remains within this framework, it said.

State Department officials said no military action has been decided except the Patriot deployment. Department Spokesman Mike McCurry made a point of

repeating that the Patriot missiles and the South Korean-U.S. military drill Team Spirit are both purely defensive in nature.

Nevertheless, there are ominous signs. Defense officials last week confirmed reports that U.S. aircraft carriers, including the Independence and Abraham Lincoln, and warships are conducting operations near the peninsula.

The operations, taking place just a couple of thousand miles from the East Sea, are the first such maneuvers in months and are tied to the possibility of holding Team Spirit.

The official explanation is that the operations were planned in advance and are unrelated to the current tension in Korea. A fleet of that size requires considerable time to dispatch, meaning the carriers and warships were on their way before the North Korean situation flared up.

Defense officials refused to confirm the report about a strengthening of U.S. Forces in South Korea, reminding that American military strategy remains secret until a firm decision has been made.

The seeming difference of opinion in Washington is probably a two-pronged approach carefully planned by U.S. officials.

The Clinton administration is in search of a new impetus that can put the ball in a different court without the present tension.

While high-level officials talk of a military threat, mid-level officials speak differently. This is probably Washington's way of waving both the stick and the carrot.

DPRK Envoy to China Denounces U.S. Pressure
SK2303144394 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0802 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Report by Yang Hui-pu from Beijing]

[Text] The North Korean ambassador to China warned today that if the United States does not suspend pressuring North Korea, the Korean peninsula will be submerged in war once again.

North Korean Ambassador Chu Chang-chun made this remark at a news conference on 23 March and threatened that the United States should not forget their lesson learned from the Korea war on 25 June. He denounced the U.S. Clinton administration for attempting to create international pressure against North Korea.

Ambassador Chu said that such an act by the United States will contribute to only hastening the war and stressed that if the United States does not immediately give up its attempt, there will be only a war.

The Korean Central News Agency monitored in Tokyo reported that North Korea is fully prepared to answer dialogue with dialogue and war with war. Prior to this

report, Pyongyang radio monitored in Tokyo warned that North Korea is simultaneously preparing for both dialogue and war. It also denounced the United States for continuing to stifle North Korea.

PRC Party Official on DPRK, Jiang Visits
SK2303015694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0506 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—An official from the Chinese Communist Party stressed Wednesday that South and North Korea should continue dialogue to solve the nuclear issue despite the rupture in their bilateral working-level talks last week.

The deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the Chinese Communist Party, Zhu Shuangping, told YONHAP in an interview: "China abstained from voting when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) passed a resolution on North Korea and this is China's latest position. But the North Korean nuclear problem should be resolved by continuous dialogue between South and North Korea, and between the IAEA and North Korea."

Zhu, who arrived here on March 16 at the invitation of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, appeared to be hinting that he opposes sanctions against Pyongyang.

Asked whether Chinese President Jiang Zemin will come to Seoul, he said, "Jiang will certainly visit Seoul. Since this is an important matter, Jiang and President Kim Yong-sam will consult on it when they meet in Beijing next week."

President Kim's visit to China will help strengthen bilateral ties remarkably, Zhu said, adding that the planned trip by DLP Secretary-General Min Chong-an to Beijing will help improve relations and mutual understanding between the DLP and the Chinese Communist Party.

"This visit to Seoul was very helpful and I found many common aspects in politics, economics and culture between the two countries," he said.

President Meets Press Before Japan, PRC Trips
SK2303014894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0127 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam was reported in Tokyo and Beijing Wednesday as having said that he hopes to hold in-depth discussions on the North Korean nuclear problem with the leaders of Japan and China during his official visits to the two countries.

Kim also said South Korea would support any decision reached by the United Nations Security Council on North Korea.

Kim made the remarks at a press conference Tuesday for Japanese and Chinese correspondents stationed in Seoul as he prepared for the visits beginning Thursday.

The president noted that the North Korean nuclear issue is important to Japan, and that China supported denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Kim stressed that the opinions of the three countries are basically identical, both Japanese and Chinese press reported Wednesday.

China's XINHUA news agency quoted Kim as saying he hoped that his visits to the two countries would serve as a turning point in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue and in realizing peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and unification of Korea.

Turning to threats by the chief North Korean delegate to the inter-Korean contact last Saturday that Seoul will turn into a sea of fire if war breaks out, Kim said any North Korean provocation would be headed off as South Korea is strong and the Seoul-Washington security system is flawless.

The president pointed out that North Korea first proposed an exchange of special envoys. However, it may not happen any time soon as Pyongyang has set various conditions, Kim said.

When the North Koreans walked out of the inter-Korean working-level contact last Saturday, the rupture was intentional since their chief delegate read a statement from a prepared text, Kim told interviewers.

Aside from the nuclear issue, Kim said economic cooperation and development of trade ties between Seoul and Tokyo and Seoul and Beijing will top the agenda during his visits.

In particular, Kim said he hoped economic relations with China will develop further as a result of his Beijing visit, noting that the two countries are already conducting exchanges in every field.

The president said he is convinced that Seoul-Beijing cooperation will contribute greatly to the peace and stability of the Northeast Asian region.

With regard to Japanese Emperor Akihito coming to Seoul, Kim said this would occur when mutual understanding deepened and the Korean and Japanese people accepted it. Kim thus hinted that Akihito could visit Seoul during his term in office.

Itinerary for President Kim's Japan, PRC Trip

SK2303080594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0605 GMT
23 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam embarks on state visits to Japan and China Thursday [24 March] to hold summits on bilateral and regional issues and seek cooperation in resolving the North Korean nuclear problem.

He will be in Tokyo from Thursday to Saturday, meeting Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa for private and expanded summits. He stops in Shanghai on Saturday and arrives in Beijing on Sunday. His schedule there includes talks with President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Li Peng.

Building economic links was to top the agenda until last week, when North Korea's nuclear program created an unanticipated crisis.

The U.N. Security Council is poised to adopt a resolution on Pyongyang early next week, and securing Beijing's tacit approval is a must before the international community can take unified action.

Kim and his wife will call on Japanese Emperor Akihito on the afternoon of his arrival and then have a private summit with Hosokawa.

The two leaders will look at ways to build forward-looking relations after agreeing last summer to close the book on a past stained by Japanese colonial rule over Korea from 1910-45.

The South Korean president addresses the Japanese Diet on Friday and is to receive an honorary doctorate from Waseda University.

He meets Hosokawa again on Saturday before leaving for Shanghai, this time accompanied by his cabinet ministers.

In Shanghai, Kim will tour the complex that used to house the Korean Government-in-exile during the Japanese colonial years.

He starts his Beijing itinerary Monday morning in a summit with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, where he will likely ask Beijing to intervene in the North Korean nuclear standoff.

Kim will also address bilateral trade issues at the summit.

He plans to speak at Beijing University on new Seoul-Beijing relations and tour South Korea's exclusive industrial complex in Tianjin before returning home on March 30.

Minister: Team Spirit To 'Include' Missiles

SK2303080794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0735 GMT
23 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae said Wednesday that the South Korean and U.S. Governments are discussing when to resume the Team Spirit military exercise, which will include Patriot missiles.

Yi told the National Assembly's National Defense Committee that the exercise may begin in late April, mid-May or sometime after that.

He said, "as North Korea failed to fulfill the two preconditions for suspension of Team Spirit, resumption of the exercise has become inevitable. The maximum number of U.S. Forces possible will take part in the exercise for maximum effect."

He explained that Team Spirit will include command post exercises and such practical maneuvers as river crossings and emergency landings.

North Korea walked out of the latest inter-Korean working-level contact on Saturday, rupturing the dialogue on exchanging special envoys, and warned Monday that it would withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) if Team Spirit was resumed this year.

In response to threats by Pyongyang, South Korea and the United States plan to deploy Patriot missiles near Seoul soon in preparation for an emergency.

The Patriots are expected to arrive here next month in time for Team Spirit.

Yi said, "Patriot anti-missile missiles will also be part of the exercise. One Patriot battalion can fight 55 incoming aircraft simultaneously and has the incidental capability of intercepting Scud missiles."

The government will decide the date for resumption of Team Spirit after considering the effect on farmers and likely outcome of the joint exercise.

"Once the government officially announces the resumption of Team Spirit, it will be difficult to suspend the exercise again," he said.

He did not rule out the possibility of North Korean provocation after the United Nations discusses possible economic sanctions.

"The government is working out countermeasures of two kinds—one before the U.N. Security Council decides on sanctions against North Korea and the other after the decision," he said.

Yi said Seoul and Washington will hold consultations after the Security Council makes a decision on sanctions.

If sanctions are imposed, he said North Korea may try to endure the pressure but would eventually be compelled to accede to the council's demands.

"But if Pyongyang judges the United Nations' deterrent power is not enough to defeat it, you cannot rule out that possibility and it may choose military provocation," he said.

Dailies React to Decision To Deploy Patriots **SK2303092794**

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of articles in Seoul vernacular newspapers published on 23 March reacting to the U.S. and ROK decision to deploy Patriots missiles to the ROK.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN on page 3 carries a 900-word article by Washington-based correspondent Yi Chong-yon entitled: "The Background Behind the U.S. Decision To Deploy Patriots." The article notes that in the wake of the rupture of North-South contacts, the U.S. policy toward North Korea has shifted from "diplomatic negotiations" to "exercising pressure" and reports "the deployment of Patriots has brought up speculation that the United States will impose gradual pressure on North Korea by demonstrating its power." The article notes: "The deployment of Patriots is apparently aimed at grasping the initiative on the nuclear issue, rather than giving up dialogue with North Korea."

While noting that the United States is assuming a two-pronged stance toward North Korea—demonstrating power while taking a cautious approach on North Korea—the article reports the diplomatic goal of the United States is "not isolating North Korea from the international community, but inducing it to join in the international nuclear order." The article notes that the United States is not giving up its efforts for dialogue since it estimates that a UN resolution will have little effect on North Korea and that it is not in the interest of the United States to heighten the tension on the Korean peninsula. The article predicts "chances are high that the North Korean nuclear issue will be back on the negotiating table after a cooling-off period."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO on page 3 carries a 900-word article by Washington-based correspondent Yi Sang-uk entitled: "The United States is Taking a Cautious Approach on North Korea." The article writes: "It is ironic that the U.S. decision on the Patriots has a diplomatic meaning rather than a military one." Reporting that the Patriots will take more than a month to reach the ROK, the article notes "that leaves plenty of time for the U.S. Government to try diplomatic persuasion to pry open North Korea's nuclear facilities for international inspection. This shows that the United States wants to go the extra mile with diplomacy before considering military steps on the North."

Recalling that the U.S. Government announced its plan on the deployment earlier than expected, the article interprets this move as "U.S. efforts to maximize its firm stance on the North Korean nuclear issue by coordinating the timing with the UN Security Council's discussions on the issue." The article concludes: "The United States will not give up its efforts to peacefully resolve the nuclear issue."

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN on page 2 carries a 700-word article by O Tae-kyu from the "Fluoroscope" column. The article recalls the past commitments made by high-level ROK Government officials that they will not bring in the Patriots and then expresses regret that "with the North Korean chief delegate's remark on turning Seoul into a fireball, the deployment of Patriots has become a resolute issue inside the government." The article points out the deployment is "a

by-product of a shrewd trick of U.S. arms dealers who are making the most of the current tense situation." Noting that the issue on deploying the Patriots was not included in the North Korean-U.S. agreement reached in New York, the article writes: "The U.S. and ROK Governments, however, decided to deploy the Patriots missiles as soon as the North-South contact ruptured, giving an impression that they were hoping for it," and maintains that an "immediate decision on the deployment, which was made under the pretext of the rupture of North-South contact, is a jump of logic." The article urges the government to clearly manifest the background behind such a decision to allay the people's suspicion on the deployment.

New Building Planned for 'Activated' N-S Talks

SK1803061994 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 18 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Chang Yun-yong]

[Text] A new government building in which to hold South-North talks will be built in Ilsan, Kyonggi Province in preparation for full-fledged South-North negotiations.

In addition, large-scale construction of public projects—such as a new airport based in the southwestern area of the country, an international exhibition hall in Taegu Airport, a direct Kyongju-Chonju railway, a new port in Yongil Straits of Pohang, and new state bypasses—will begin on a full scale next year. At the same time, Kimpo Airport will be enlarged.

The International Vaccine Institute of the Seoul National University and a management organization for practicing employment insurance system will also be established next year.

The Economic Planning Board's report "Status of Major New and Ongoing Projects for 1995," reports that government offices are planning the above projects for next year.

According to this report, the National Unification Board plans to build a large government building in which to hold South-North dialogue in Ilsan with a total fund of 80.2 billion won in preparation for future activated South-North dialogue because the existing South-North dialogue office located in Samchong-tong, Seoul is too small and on lease.

The Ministry of Transportation will survey the propriety of building a new airport in the southwestern area with the people of Muan, South Cholla Province, where it will likely be built. Next year it will also begin full-scale construction of various public projects, including state bypasses, which will be completed by 2000 and for which a total fund of 6,509 billion won will be invested.

Dallies View Rupture in North-South Contacts

SK2303030694

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of editorials from Seoul vernacular press published on 22 March on the rupture of North-South working-level contacts for the exchange of special envoys and remarks made by senior North Korean delegate at the 19 March contact.

The conservative daily CHOSON ILBO publishes on page 3 a 1,200-word editorial entitled: "How Can They Threaten 'War'?" Describing the "venomous remarks" made by the North Korean delegate during the eighth working-level contact that "Seoul is not far from here. If a war breaks out, Seoul will become a sea of fire and you cannot survive," as "shuddering," the editorial reports his remarks disclosed the "true color" of North Korea. The editorial expresses doubts that North Korea can hardly become a "dialogue partner" in peacefully resolving the nation's problems and that "no nation" in the international community "supports" the North Korean position. Stressing that the international community cannot have "perseverance" if North Korea persists in an "unreasonable policy" regarding North-South relations and the nuclear issue, the editorial notes that our side is "well aware" of North Korean capabilities and will take "resolute countermeasures" when North Korea commits an act of "disturbing" the peace of the world. The editorial urges the North to ponder "coolly" the consequences of its radical hard-line steps and to act with discretion. Otherwise, the "collapse" of the Kim Il-sung system and "North Korean-style socialism" will be "expedited."

CHOSON ILBO publishes on page 3 a 1,300-word editorial entitled: "We Reprove the Government." Defining the incumbent government's policies on diplomacy, security, reunification, and North Korea as a "comprehensive failure," the editorial calls on the Kim Yong-sam government to keenly realize the current "very serious situation," and reports that the North side's "intentional mockery and threat" including the "Seoul in a sea of fire" remarks made by the North delegate at "official talks" are the result of the government's "easy-going" policy on North Korea, which has been implemented for the past one year. Stressing that the security issue is the greatest national issue, which will go into "bankruptcy" even by "one error," the paper urges the government to have "a sense of shame" for the recent "blow" dealt by North Korea. Describing the current events as a "grave situation," the editorial criticizes the Kim Yong-sam government's appointment of "gentlemen," who lack the sense of reality and "practical experience," to the posts of handling the North Korean issues and of dealing with North Korea's strategy of "hiding a bayonet behind a smile." Assessing the "security-related ministers' conference" as a meeting of those who failed in working out proper measures against North Korea by using up all their "cards," the paper strongly

urges that the government should present "appropriate measures" instead of "prescriptions" made out after the patient has died.

The moderate daily HANGUK ILBO publishes on page 3 a 1,300-word editorial entitled: "Full-Scale Preparations Should Be Made for Provocation." Noting that the people are worried about North Korea's provocative remarks on war, the editorial stresses that high-level officials in charge of diplomatic and security affairs should "closely examine" the reason the situation has "worsened." Pointing out that the "attitude" of the government's diplomatic, unification, and security teams toward the North made the people "worry," the editorial criticizes "the nation-first policy," "national welfare theory" and "incoherent" diplomacy against North Korea, which invariably seeks "communization" of the South. The editorial reports that "opposition" to deployment of Patriot missiles to U.S. Forces in the ROK, which was expressed by the government claiming that this would "incite" North Korea, and the policy of separating the North Korean nuclear issue from "economic cooperation," were the result of the government's "inconsistent" policy. Stressing that North Korean military power, sought even amid severe economic difficulties, is still "enormous," the paper introduces that "three mechanized corps and tanks corps and two artillery corps" have been deployed within 80 km from the Military Demarcation Line.

Noting it is important for the government to further strengthen its "security and defense posture" and for the people to heighten "vigilance" against North Korea, the paper urges the government not to assume a "wavering" attitude toward the North so the people will "trust" and "follow" the government.

The independent moderate daily MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN publishes on page 3 a 1,100-word editorial entitled: "Where is North Korea Heading?" Expressing concern with the North Korean side's "radical remarks" on "willingness for war" made during the working-level contact, the editorial points out that one cannot understand such remarks with "common sense" and that the North Korean authorities are likely attempting to "gain time" for nuclear development. Stressing that "strong countermeasures" are the only solution to the problem, the paper calls on the government to strengthen diplomatic efforts to maintain an "international cooperative system" in the course of dealing with the North Korean nuclear issue and to prevent the situation from advancing to an "extreme phase." The editorial maintains that a "tight defensive system" should be established to cope with the "reckless challenge" by North Korea.

The pro-government daily SEOUL SINMUN publishes on page 3 a 2,300-word editorial, under the headline, "We Should Resolutely Respond to the Threat on 'Sea of Fire'." Saying that an "extremely serious situation" has developed following the North Korean delegate's remarks at the North-South contact, the editorial urges a

reevaluation of our own "internal posture" to cope with this situation. Assessing the purpose of North Korea's expression of a willingness for war as part of its "negotiation strategy" to strengthen its own system of rule, to provoke our "sense of anxiety" and create confusion within our society, and to "alienate" the ROK, Japan, and the United States in the "international arena," the paper observes that the North's actions might have been prompted by our own "weak points" such as the slackening of security since the inauguration of the civilian government. Urging the government to reexamine the nation's overall security posture, the editorial particularly urges leading figures in society to encourage the people to "establish" a new outlook on the nation's security. Stressing that war can be prevented only by "advance preparations," the paper calls for strengthening internal unity to cope against any provocation.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN publishes on page 3 a 1,200-word editorial entitled, "We Are Concerned With the Nation's Security." Noting that, regardless of North or South, all will be reduced to ashes if a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, the editorial expresses "shock" at the North Korean delegate's remarks on Seoul becoming "a sea of fire," and points out that North Korea cannot evade the international community's "spearhead of attack." The paper, however, asks whether we are "willing and capable" of coping with such "unpredictable acts" of North Korea and whether we have enough arms to do so. The paper criticizes our diplomatic team as "too weak" to dissipate the uneasiness of the people, and as being "naive" and lacking in clear, firm principles.

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN publishes on page 3 a 1,300-word editorial under the headline, "Catastrophe in North-South Dialogue Should Be Avoided." Noting that hasty and narrow-minded people are worried about the possibility of war, the editorial writes that the South's "acute reaction" to the North's "bombshell declaration" on a readiness to answer dialogue for dialogue and war with war was responsible for the rupture in North-South talks. The paper then points out that the nation's "future" was now more likely to be a target of "bargaining" between big powers.

Opposing an "extreme attitude" against North Korea as ineffective due to the likelihood of North Korea's further aggravating military tension in order to appease a public sentiment that will arise following economic sanctions. The paper implores the North and the South to agree to a working-level contact over the telephone as soon as possible and to resolve this problem through dialogue and discussion, as they would a "matrimonial quarrel."

DPKK Leaders Call Kim Chong-il 'President'

SK2303012994 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean
23 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] According to the Ministry of National Defense [MND] and the field army on 22 March, North Korean

loudspeaker announcements heard on the South's east and midwest frontlines near the DMZ have begun calling Kim Chong-il "president [chusok]" since early March instead of the usual "beloved and respected leader" or "supreme commander of the army." Noting that the change coincided with the resumption of dialogue, including the working-level contacts between the South and the North, relevant authorities including the MND are speculating that this may mean a change in system, including the complete transfer of North Korea's supreme power to Kim Chong-il, or a change in policy toward South Korea.

Release of Closed Session N-S Talks Questioned
SK2303065594 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean
23 Mar 94 p 4

[By Kang Tae-ho]

[Text] The eighth working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys held at Panmunjom on 19 March may go down in records as talks that substantially regressed North-South relations.

"Are you declaring a war?"

"You declared a war first. Seoul is not far from here. If a war breaks out, Seoul will also be a sea of fire. Mr. Song, you will not be safe, either."

Dialogue held between Song Yong-tae, chief South Korean delegate and vice minister of the National Unification Board (NUB) and Pak Yong-su, chief North Korean delegate and deputy director of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, was aired nationwide that day on the nine-o'clock (12:00 GMT) evening news, and North-South relations now face a situation which is dominated not by issues of dialogue and negotiations, but by issues of confrontation and security that call for the deployment of Patriot missiles and warnings of withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

Even though the image was blurred, the North Korean delegate's "extreme remarks" were conveyed vividly like a live broadcast, and can be viewed as a threat to the South. Attention is now focusing on why the contents, which might amplify people's fears, were allowed to be broadcast without any filtering.

Scenes of none of the seven contacts to date were reported. Only the greeting sessions prior to talks were open to reporters and photographers. While North Korea's remarks at the last contact were far more serious than its previous "threats," the government's release of footage of the talks to broadcasting stations was also exceptional, especially when considering that the talks were, as before, held in "closed session."

Heads of relevant departments, including the Vice Premier and NUB Minister and the Senior Presidential Secretary for foreign affairs and security, were able to

watch the development of the talks even though the North-South contacts at Panmunjom were held in closed sessions, to allow for quick evaluation of developments in the talks, quick countermeasures, and provision of new guidelines in answer to the other side's position.

While only audio is available when talks are held at the North side's Tongilgak, both audio and video are available through closed-circuit television (CCTV) when talks are held in the South side's Peace House. Furthermore, it has been learned that OCTVs are installed at Chongwadae [presidential office], the Secretariat for North-South talks, and the Agency for National Security Planning, so policymakers monitoring the talks on the OCTVs, clearly heard the North Korean delegate Pak Yong-su's remarks of "Seoul sea of fire," as the eighth contact happened to take place at the Peace House.

Details of how the government came to the decision to release the contents on video tapes to broadcast stations are unknown. It did not take the government very long, however, to decide to "vividly" convey the remarks in question to the people. Around 2 PM (05:00 GMT) that day, less than three hours after the talks had ended, the NUB asked broadcast station reporters who were covering the day's talks if there were any technical problems in airing footage recorded from the CCTV and when their deadlines were. In answer to the question of whether this would violate the agreement between the South and the North to keep the talks closed, the NUB explained that North Korea had also made the contents of the talks public. This later turned out to be a poor excuse. It was 9:00 PM (12:00 GMT) in the evening the next day (20 March) when North Korea reported the eighth contact in detail through its CENTRAL BROADCAST.

Concerning this, an NUB official said: "The video tape was released to convey the fact to the people matter-of-factly that North Korea made such intimidating remarks."

After viewing the two-minute-and-forty-second tape, a broadcast station executive asked related departments, including the Chongwadae, for confirmation that the contents were allowed to be aired. The answer from the Chongwadae was: "We are aware of the fact." The announcement of the decision to deploy Patriot missiles, whose deployment was the subject of much controversy, was subsequently made during the security-related ministers' meeting on 21 March.

DPRK 'Excessive Control' of Business Alleged
SK2303090794 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 23
Mar 94 p 18

[Report by Ku Pon-yong]

[Text] North Korea is exerting all its efforts to increase the production of clothes for export in order to earn foreign currency, which it lacks, to solve its economic difficulties.

After the mid-1980's, North Korea began to build export clothes plants independent of plants for domestic consumption to earn foreign currency. There are an estimated 40 such plants, 20 of which are joint ventures or jointly managed, mainly with companies owned by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, Chongryon.

The export clothes companies import basic materials and export the finished products to Japan and Western countries. Those with outstanding export records are Moranbong joint-venture company, Nakwon Songhwa clothes company, and Chindallae joint-venture company (women's clothes). Moranbong joint-venture company, North Korea's largest export clothes company, exported approximately 280,000 men's suits and jackets in 1990.

There are reports, however, that North Korea's ambitious plans to expand clothes exports are partly snaggled. Chongryon businessmen are refraining from investing in North Korea due to the North Korean regime's excessive control and closed policy, which run counter to the changes in the international political situation.

It has been learned that since the beginning of the nineties, consecutive Chongryon companies have gone bankrupt or stopped operations due to the North Korean authority's opportunistic and stubborn attitude and now only 20 plants are in operation.

As a result, the North Korean authorities are actively seeking joint-venture businesses with Western countries in the clothes processing sector. In the meantime, it is also expected that North Korea will show increased interest in expanding processing trade with the ROK, despite the blocked North-South relations.

However, ROK's processing trade is not expected to be activated until the North Korean nuclear issue reaches a stage of resolution.

U.S. Meat Products Destroyed for Health Reasons

SK2303072794 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
23 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by No Chwa-hon]

[Text] Local importers who have been distributing American sausage with illegally extended expiration dates by freezing them have been ordered to retrieve the products from distribution outlets and destroy them.

The Health-Social Affairs's stern action, however is feared to trigger trade friction with the United States which sent a senior official of the U.S. Trade Representative's Office to file a protest.

Peter Collins, assistant deputy U.S. Trade Representative, arrived here March 11 to lodge a formal protest with the ministry over its reluctance to allow the American products to go through customs in Pusan.

At the same time, the incident has all the appearance of turning into the discovery of major irregularities committed by government officials who are under investigation for possibly taking bribes from the importers.

At least 20 former and incumbent officials of the Pusan customs and quarantine office, and the National Institute of Health are facing a special audit by the ministry.

According to ministry officials, 24 importers of American sausage, mostly chicken and turkey franks, have been taking in shipments of frozen products since 1990 even though they should have been refrigerated instead.

Among the 24 companies are Kotco Co., Yongni Trading Co., Sejung Industrial Co., Oksan International, Ambrose Deli House, E.A.C. Korea, Jinyong Food Co., Yonbang International and Myongjin I.C.I.

Under the Food Sanitation Law, frozen sausage has an expiration date of 90 days from the day of production whereas refrigerated products must be sold within 30 days, an official of the ministry's sanitation Safety Section said.

Realizing that it would be impossible to market the products here since the time required for shipment and customs clearance runs up to almost 30 days, the importers apparently resorted to freezing the products to buy more time.

"However, freezing the products for shipment then defrosting them in the process of distributing and getting them to consumers through department stores and supermarkets, can only result in the breeding of micro-organisms, thus making them obviously hazardous to health," he explained.

The official admitted that the legal period for distribution varies from state to state with some providing longer periods, at least more than 30 days, it is a rule of thumb that the importing country's standards must be observed.

"We understand that while there are some frozen sausages in the United States, most of them are refrigerated since heat is applied on the products during processing," he noted.

Under related regulations, the heat-treated sausages are recommended to be refrigerated at between 0-10 degree centigrade depending on the ingredient and the processing methods.

The import of heat-treated sausages began in 1990 and an estimated 4,800 tons, estimated to be worth 19 billion won (approximately 25 million U.S. dollars), were shipped here, almost exclusively from the United States.

Mexico Simplifies Entry Procedure for Tourists*SK2203072194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0053 GMT
22 Mar 94*

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—The Mexican Government simplified procedures and paperwork for South Korean tourists and businessmen entering the country as of March 10, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

As agreed at joint economic cooperation talks held last month, Mexico now requires that tourists submit a traveler's card available at tourism bureaus, airports and on planes instead of papers that previously had to be purchased at the Mexican mission in Seoul.

Businessmen who stay 90 days or less can enter Mexico without visas.

The measure is part of bilateral efforts to boost people exchanges and corporate activities, especially on Seoul's part, to build better relations with the member of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Ministry Allows Navy To Pick Weapons System*SK2303081294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0743 GMT
23 Mar 94*

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry has instructed the Navy to select a tactical command and fire control system for the next-generation Korean Destroyer (KDX), the Ministry announced on Wednesday.

The action is the first taken under the force improvement plan codenamed Yulgok, and it will set a precedent for other weapons system development programs under the scheme, Ministry officials said.

At a Yulgok Committee meeting last June, the Ministry tentatively decided to use the Corys-200k1 system developed by Germany's Atlas Elektronik Co. for the KDX. The decision was opposed by some, however, who maintained that a British system was better than the German one in terms of reliability and performance.

The German and British suppliers then offered to cut their prices, causing the Ministry to put off a final decision.

In view of the system's features, the KDX building process and to ensure the success of the KDX program, the Ministry recently decided to leave the decision up to the Navy, which will operate the system to meet its tactical requirements, an official said.

The Navy will select a system next month so that the KDX program can be completed by 1998 as scheduled, he added.

Under the KDX program, a state-of-the-art tactical command and fire control system will be developed at a

cost of 151 billion won (188 million U.S. dollars) for use in the KDX, the Navy's main warship in the 21st century.

'Farm-Relief Special Tax' Reviewed*942C0071B Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 21
Jan 94 p3*

[Article by reporter Min Pyong-kwan: "Problems with the Farm-Relief Special Tax: the Search for Tax Revenue Sources Riddled With 'Irrationalities'—Officials Fined How Much to Collect Even Before Deciding What To Spend It On; Basis of Computation Is Vague, Announced Uses of Tax Money Reflect Hurried Planning"]

[Text] The Farm-Relief Special Tax implementation plans, released simultaneously on 21 January by the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), show a striking contrast.

In a nutshell, the MOF release answers the question of "who should pay the new tax" in great details while the MAF announcement dealing with "what it will be spent on and how" is full of "abstracts and ambiguities."

This is not to say that the MOF has done a good job or that the MAF has made a blunder but that the plans clearly unveiled the procedural problems involved. In other words, even before arriving at a firm decision on future uses of the money from the taxation in the light of the fundamental purpose of the new tax, officials came up with numbers on the amount of collection, e.g., "15 trillion won [W] over 10 years."

Because of the "original sin" inherent in the tax, the principle of "measuring the need first, then tailoring the levy to it"—stated in the first chapter of the textbook on public finance—was ignored from the very beginning.

The MOF, which originally opposed the levying of the farm relief tax, an earmarked tax, evidently took great pains to find the revenue sources for it, which are not many to begin with, while the MAF, which gained an annual W500 billion revenue source as a result of the upheaval over the rice issue last year, apparently prepared "in haste" the list of uses for the money for honor's sake.

There is no denying that the rice issue was a big political burden—so big that it drew the president's apology [following the Uruguay Round settlement]. However, at a time when a water pollution incident would easily lead to discussion of an environmental protection tax, it is undoubtedly the taxpayer's position that the process of establishing the new earmarked tax and priorities involved should be put to a review before any further steps on it are taken.

In this connection, the MAF explains that it is just "prudent with options."

It maintains that it needs to find a consensus of farmers and fishermen and their interest groups on how they want the money to be spent, and that it will finalize its plan before the collection begins in July.

The explanations, however, cannot convince the public of how it came up with such a number as W1.5 trillion and why it is needed.

The government should not handle tax business in a "surprise show" style as it did when issuing the decree outlawing financial transactions using aliases or borrowed names.

A glance at the MOF-released "Plan for the Farm-Relief Special Tax" clearly indicates how difficult it is to collect W1.5 trillion in additional tax a year. The plan, covering six large branches, shows traces of a hard struggle to find revenue from the already limited sources.

It is known that the original MOF plan focused on sectors profiting from the marked opening under the Uruguay Round settlement and on absorbing the profits as tax to finance the relief program, but that it was turned down in the course of interministry consultations.

Specifically, it was pointed out that profits from farm imports at cheaper prices are already absorbed into the Farm Prices Stability Fund and used to finance support programs for farm and fishing communities, and that therefore, renaming the levy and collecting them as tax would only be tantamount to "moving the money from the husband's wallet to the wife's."

So, the MOF was compelled to look for revenue sources elsewhere. The result was "irrationalities" as seen everywhere in the announced plan. For example, the earlier tax cuts for technology development, plant and equipment investment and for savings incentive will be rescinded; the corporate tax will be increased at the risk of weakening competitiveness; the acquisition tax will be increased on houses and cars, even though it could mean contradicting the existing long-term tax reform plan designed to gradually reduce the net worth tax.

The unanimous hopes of the public for relief to the farm and fishing communities must not be reduced to a daydream. The important thing for the government to do right now is to try to come up with a blueprint both specific and future-oriented and showing how much money it intends to spend and on what, as soon as possible.

Farm-Relief Special Tax Plan (unit: billion won)

Levy	Anticipated 94 Revenue	Anticipated 95 Revenue	Major Payees
20% on earlier tax cuts	80	550	transfer tax cut recipients, plant/equipment investors, corporations having increased capital
10% on earlier savings interest cut	80	230	savings interest recipients
0.1% on securities transactions	70	220	securities sellers/buyers
additional 2% point on 32% bracket of corp. tax		270	12% of all corporations (about 12,000 firms)
10% on acquisition tax	90	210	acquirers of real estate, cars, etc.
20% on rare, patented taxes	10	20	Korean Horse Affairs Assn.
total	330	1,500	

The tax money thus collected will, according to the MAF plan, be used for:

- improving competitiveness in the rice markets, by readjusting farm land partitions to promote agricultural mechanization; providing large-type farm machines including tractors, sowers; setting up combined rice processing plants in areas where land readjustments have been carried out; giving financial support to management innovation efforts.
- improving competitiveness of basic farm produce, by creating high-tech complexes such as those of glass greenhouses, complexes exclusively for exports, and complexes exclusively for the processing of farm produce.
- training technical workers, by developing capabilities to utilize advanced technology and information; building special colleges of technology (a school in each province).

—developing advanced technologies, including direct sowing by aircraft, new breeding, cloning of Korean cattle, and low-pollution farming materials.

—developing farm and fishing villages, by creating tourist villages in mountains and fishing villages and marine products processing complexes; expanding and/or paving 50,000 kilometers of roads.

—promoting rural regional developments, by expanding agricultural-industrial complexes, public health and medical facilities; building public halls in towns and townships.

Meanwhile, the projected Farm-Relief Special Tax will, according to the MOF plan, be paid by:

—beneficiaries of the various tax cuts, who will be required to pay 20 percent of the cuts. But the levy will not be on every earlier tax cut but only on the cuts in the income and corporate taxes under the Regulation

Law on Tax Reduction and Exemption [RLTRE], in tariffs under the RLTRE and the Customs Tariff Law, and in the acquisition, registration, property, and integrated land taxes under the RLTRE and the Local Tax Law.

Cuts in the income and corporate taxes under the RLTRE mean the special investment tax exemption for plant and equipment investments by businesses; the deduction allowed of the income from a capital increase when an enterprise has increased the capital to improve its financial structure, and the cut in the capital gain tax applied to cases of land expropriation by the state. Percent cuts in tariffs under the RLTRE and the Customs Tariff Law mean those applied to imports of ship and aircraft parts and automation equipment.

Local tax cuts under the Local Tax Law and RLTRE include tax exemption benefits for real estate acquired and retained by nonprofit organizations.

Excluded from the foregoing cuts under the RLTRE are those for state and local autonomous bodies, and for farmers and fishermen (such as the transfer tax benefits on farmer-owned land and the exemption granted farming cooperatives); tax benefits authorized by international conventions (such as exemptions for diplomats and tourists by international usage).

In the case of the transfer tax exemption under the one-family-one-house program or the deduction allowed in the earned income tax withholding from the monthly salaries, it is not under the RLTRE but the Income Tax Law, therefore, it is excluded in principle from the new taxation. The exemption for houses below the "national house" in size is indeed under the RLTRE, but it involves neither an income tax nor a corporate tax but a value-added tax and, therefore, is also excluded.

—earners of interests on tax-free or tax-cut savings deposits. Currently, 18 types of savings deposits are either free of the interest income tax, which is 20 percent of the income (or 21.5 percent with the residential tax included) or subjected to a 5 percent tax rate. Under the plan, all these savings deposits are among the objects of the new tax.

The rate will be 2 percent on currently tax-free deposits (such as the Worker Long-Term Savings Deposit), while small-amount, family-type savings deposits, currently subject to a 5 percent tax rate, will be assessed an additional 1.5 percent. Therefore, the current tax burden of 20 percent (or 21.5 percent with the residential tax included), 5 percent and 0 percent will respectively be changed to 21.5 percent, 6.5 percent and 2 percent.

However, the long-term savings deposits to prepare for the purchase of a house and the individual annuities—to which the government had decided to give tax benefits to induce long-term savings deposits—will not be taxed under the plan.

—others:

—sellers of securities, currently paying 0.2 percent of the proceeds from the sales in the securities transaction tax. They will be required to pay a separate 0.1 percent in the new tax. Therefore, the tax burden at the time of transaction will increase from 0.2 percent to 0.3 percent.

—corporate tax payers, currently paying 18 percent for the taxable amount less than 100 million won and 32 percent for that in excess of 100 million won, will be required to pay an additional 2 percent for the amount in excess of 100 million won in the new tax for two years, a time-limit measure.

—acquirers of houses or cars, currently paying 2 percent of the acquisition cost in the acquisition tax, will be required to pay 10 percent of that payment (0.2 percent of the acquisition cost) in the Farm-Relief Special Tax. Houses smaller than the "national house" in size will be exempted from the new taxation, however.

—those who buy parimutuel tickets, currently paying 10 percent of the ticket price in parimutuel tax and 2 percent in education tax, will under the plan be required to pay another 2 percent in the new tax, and the total tax burden will be 14 percent.

Seoul Forms Committee on Communications Project

SK2303080694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0707 GMT
23 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—The Communications Ministry announced Wednesday a comprehensive plan to build an ultra-high-speed information network, aimed at placing the multi-media information industry in the second-tier group after the United States and Japan by the year 2015.

The Ministry will form a pan-governmental promotion committee, a working-level committee and a planning and management team to implement the scheme.

The prime minister will be appointed as chairman of the pan-governmental promotion committee and the Economic Planning Board minister as vice chairman.

Another 23 figures from the presidential secretariat, prime minister's office and private companies are to participate in the committee.

The vice communications minister will be named chairman of the working-level committee and 24 director-general-level officials from other ministries will join the panel.

The new planning and management team will be set up within the Communications Ministry as a separate organ and in order to secure enough funds, an independent management foundation is to be formed.

The plan is due to be approved by the cabinet late this month or in early April.

It will be carried out in three stages at a cost of 44.77 trillion won (\$5.47 U.S. billion dollars).

Burma

Khin Nyunt Supports Development Projects*BK2303070694 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Mar 94*

[Excerpts] Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Regions and National Races and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), ministers and their entourage who had been visiting Mandalay left in a military plane on 21 March afternoon and arrived in Myitkyina, Kachin State, at 1420. Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt and his entourage were accompanied by Major General Aye Kyaw, chairman of Northern Shan State Law and Order Restoration Council and commander. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt and his entourage then proceeded to the Northern Military Command Headquarters where he met with KIO [Kachin Independence Organization] leaders U Lumung Tu Jai, U Gawri Zau Saing, Dr. La Ja, U Zau Phan, and U Hkun Maw. They discussed regional development projects in Kachin State. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the meeting, Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt recalled that when he made the peace overture, he explained that as long as there is armed conflict within the state, development would fall behind. But, when armed conflict ended and peace prevailed, the government would work hand in hand with local people to accelerate development in Kachin State. Responding to this overture, the KIO, which understood the goodwill of the government, returned to the legal fold and the whole of Kachin State has now become peaceful. He said we therefore have to strive for more development projects in the state.

He said not only people in Kachin State, but everyone in Myanmar [Burma] is happy to have peace there. He said the general public have praised and acknowledged the cooperation between the government and the KIO based on mutual understanding. He said if the remaining armed organizations in the jungles make similar efforts, the people can expect and wish for peace and development for the entire Union. He said these expectations and wishes should be recognized.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt explained that SLORC has prioritized development projects in the states depending on the annual state budget. He said it has been learned that the commander and the KIO had made preliminary coordination on the implementation of development projects in Kachin State. He said he and the ministers and departmental authorities had come here in order to provide the necessary assistance to implement these priority projects. He said good roads and communications, education, and health, and economic development are crucial to a region's development. He explained that agriculture and livestock breeding and dam and irrigation projects are crucial for economic development.

He added that Kachin State has many beautiful scenery. He cited the Myitson [confluence of Mae Hka and Mali Kha Rivers and the source of the Irrawaddy River] area and Indawgyi, which could be turned into international tourist spots to contribute to regional development. He said efforts should be made to develop small-scale private industries and that the government and the people are already cooperating in developing hydroelectric power projects to provide energy for these industries. He then called for discussions on the implementation of priority projects to enable the accelerated development of Kachin State and the people to enjoy the fruits of peace as quickly as possible.

Next, Kachin national leader, U Lumung Tu Jai spoke on the construction of new roads and bridges, the renovation of old roads and bridges, the location and development of sources of hydroelectric power, the expanded cultivation of sugarcane, the construction of dams, the development of new land, and the organization and education of local people to promote public participation.

Next, Commander Maj. Gen. Saw Lwin spoke on the construction and the renovation of Myitkyina-Shwe Road, Bhamo-Myitkyina Road, Putao-Myitkyina Road, Myitkyina-Tanai-Lido Road, Mogaung-Kamaing-Hpakan Road, Hopong-Mong Tawng Road, the construction and renovation of bridges, the resettlement of destroyed villagers, education, health, the expansion of hydroelectric power plants, and the provision of sugarcane for the Namti sugar mill. Next, the ministers, chairman of the Northern Shan State Law and Order Restoration Council, and departmental officials gave an explanation on development projects for border regions and national races in Kachin State. This included health; education; transport; the construction of a television relay station; the construction, renovation, and the expansion of roads and bridges; post, telegraph and telephone; agriculture and irrigation; and livestock breeding projects.

Next, in response to the discussion at the meeting, Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt noted that ministers and departmental officials had explained the assistance programs based on the submissions of the national leaders for development of Kachin State. [passage omitted] He said based on the discussions today, efforts will be made for accelerated development of roads and communications, education, health, hydroelectric power, transportation, agriculture, and livestock breeding. He then urged the local people to join in helping the efforts of departmental authorities and the KIO. [passage omitted]

The secretary-1 and his entourage returned to Yangon [Rangoon] from Myitkyina this evening.

National Convention Plenary Session Opens
BK2303085094 Rangoon Radio Burma in English
0700 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] The National Convention plenary session has been held at the central meeting hall of President Residence compound on Ahlone Road this morning.

The plenary session was attended by the chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission, Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt; Vice Chairmen Lt. Gen. Maung Thint and Brigadier General Myo Thant, and commission members; the chairman of the Work Committee of the National Convention, U Aung Toe; Vice Chairman U Tha Tun, and committee members; the chairman of management committee, Brig. Gen. Tin Aye and members; delegates; and local and foreign correspondents.

National Convention Convening Work Committee member Dr. Than Nyunt chaired as patron, and eight persons chaired as members of Panel of Patrons.

Director General U Khin Maung Myint of the Work Committee Office acted as master of ceremony. Altogether 666 out of 694 delegates attended the meeting and the session was declared as success.

Alternate member of Panel of Patrons Dr. Than Nyunt delivered an opening address. The (7)five delegates of nationalities group read out proposal papers under the headings of state structure and the head of state. Proposal papers were read out by five delegates of nationalities group from states and divisions.

The plenary session recessed as arranged at 1100. The afternoon session of the National Convention plenary session is continuing at President Residence compound on Ahlone Road.

Rangoon Reports Surrender of More Insurgents
BK2303084194 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
0430 GMT 23 Feb 94

[Text] Members of armed organizations in the jungles who have realized that destructive activities do not serve the interests of the nation and people and who have seen and heard about the new developments in the nation have given up the policy of armed struggle and have been returning to the legal fold after realizing the correct outlook.

A total of 27 members of armed organizations surrendered between 14 and 28 February at various garrisons under the Central Military Command, Southeast Military Command, Western Military Command, and Northwest Military Command. A total of 54 persons surrendered in February. They were warmly welcomed by members of the garrisons concerned.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Anwar Outlines View on Human Rights
BK2103135094 Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES
in English 20 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[By Hardev Kaur]

[Text] Honolulu Set.—Malaysia has urged developed nations to give developing Asian nations a break with regard to human rights issues.

Deputy Prime Minister [PM] Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim conveyed this message to U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen today.

"Give us a break. Fair enough we want to establish democracies and believe in the principle of human rights, although the perception may differ slightly.

"But have a better understanding, listen a bit more establish an effective channel of communication and rapport among countries and cultures," Anwar said he told Bentsen.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, said this in reply to a question from the foreign Press about Malaysia's views on human rights and U.S. moves to set human rights standards for the Chinese.

Anwar, however, made it clear that he was not making a particular reference to the Chinese but that he generally felt there was a need to show a great deal more tolerance.

Asked what would happen if this was not done, Anwar replied: "Then you come out with very crude tough pronouncements or policies.

"And worse still if you use trade and aid issues to force down the throats of leaders and countries so that they see your point of view. I think what we need is dialogue and persuasion."

Anwar told a packed conference room that there were some serious problems of complexities in some countries.

He added that this was not an exaggeration and neither was it an issue meant to condone the excesses of other countries.

But there was a need to understand the concerns and views of others.

"There is nothing stopping us in democratic societies with a free Press to highlight issues. But of course we differ if these are taken as judgment or conclusion that will influence policies of the powerful world against the developing world in particular."

Anwar said Malaysia did not condone any sort of oppression or depression but added that to assume that some countries "have the sole monopoly and understanding of what constitutes democracy and human rights is certainly a very false arrogance."

"In this multi cultural and pluralistic world, we have to appreciate predicaments, problems and complexities of various countries and cultures."

Asked whether Bentsen tried to persuade him to take a more positive view of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Anwar replied that Malaysia had always had a positive view of APEC.

"However, we do not believe that it should be institutionalised," he added.

Asked about the liberalisation of financial markets and possible moves by the U.S. to seek greater opening of these sectors in Asian countries, Anwar said Malaysia would not move backwards but move forward adding that it was the manner and the speed that was the issue.

"As a principle I think developing countries must be given some lead time to start their infrastructure and gather enough experience before we can move further ahead".

Anwar had explained to Bensten at the World Bank IMF meeting that most foreign banks had operations in Malaysia and to a large extent continued to do so.

"But to further liberalise means that they will not have free competition at all because we will have to give some leeway to allow for locals to have some experience before they can continue to compete.

"What we are asking is for some breathing space.

"It is not an issue whether to open or not. The question is whether to continue to further liberalise, it's already quite liberal."

"Even now 16 of the 36 banks in Malaysia are foreign and some 30 percent of total deposits in Malaysia are with the foreign banks.

"To say that countries in the region are not giving access to their financial markets is not true. It is a question of access to what extent that is given at that particular time".

In terms of capital flows and the resultant impact on the economy, Anwar said there was speculation in the stock market and the ringgit [Malaysian currency].

"These are normal problems of success. If people believe in the ringgit and speculate in the ringgit then what do we do? "But I think getting more information and to see and learn from their experiences will be a great help in managing our economy," he said.

Discusses Economic Growth Strategy

BK2203135694 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[By Hardev Kaur]

[Text] Honolulu, Sun.—Every country has the right to determine its own destiny and should have the freedom to choose appropriate development and social strategies Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

He said each country had to set its own priorities when confronted with a multitude of challenges and opportunities.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, said that as the economy was becoming increasingly globalised and confronted with the reality of multiculturalism, its growth was inextricably linked to factors beyond economics.

Anwar told this to Finance Ministers of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) which met here yesterday. He was speaking on Malaysia's economic growth strategies.

Anwar, however, told the meeting: "Trade must not infringe on the rights of peoples and nations towards their own values and cultures. If we want the pursuit of growth to be a vehicle to spread out prosperity, rather than becoming an agent for domination, it has to be conducted with the full cognizance of the diversity of our world.

"The quest for stability is not an excuse for suppression and injustices."

Anwar said the implementation and the continuity of pro-growth policies and market-friendly institutional reforms were only possible within a stable political environment.

He pointed out that diligence, discipline, and a hard-working labour force—qualities which had contributed to East Asia's prosperity and improved living standards—had earned the contempt of some in the West, especially among labour unions.

"Some have gone as far as to conjure the absurd nightmare of Western civilisation being threatened by low wage economies. I must say that no Government with a modicum of sense and responsibility would like to see its own people languishing in sweatshops," Anwar said.

He added that for a country with full employment like Malaysia, no measures to suppress wages would be successful. The challenge was to remain competitive and to ensure that wage increases did not outstrip gains in productivity.

"For us in Asia, growth through productivity and competitiveness is the only path to achieve prosperity. It has liberated millions from the scourge of poverty and destitution. It will liberate millions more in future," he added.

In Malaysia's case, the high growth had resulted in the incidence of poverty declining from nearly 50 percent in 1970 to 14 percent today and per capita incomes increased significantly from a mere U.S.\$250 in 1957 to more than U.S.\$3,000 by 1993.

He told the other 17 Finance Ministers that economic growth had enabled the people in East Asia to enjoy freedom and decent living conditions—an indigenously-generated vision of opportunity and betterment that

compared favourably with the promised idylls of the divergent package deals offered by various political persuasions.

Malaysia's view, Anwar said, was that growth could not and must not be separated from the overall societal objectives. "However widely crafted and market-friendly these policies may be, consideration of the issues of distributive justice and fairness will, eventually, play their part in contributing to growth."

Malaysia's success in economic development, with six consecutive years of growth exceeding eight percent, underscored the importance of political stability, sound macro-economic management and an open, market-based economy that was largely private sector driven.

Anwar explained that the Government's multi-year structural adjustment programme in the 1980s downsized the role of the public sector and promoted private initiative as the main engine of growth.

On Malaysia's economic performance in 1994, he said indications were that the economy would strengthen further with growth exceeding eight percent "making this the most buoyant and longest economic expansion in Malaysia's history."

Both the Government's financial and balance of payments position were looking very healthy. Inflation was low and price stability was expected to continue, he said.

Prospects for the medium term were equally good and the growth target of eight percent for the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995) would most probably be surpassed. Nevertheless, there was a need to continuously focus on relieving infrastructural bottlenecks and shortage of skilled labour to enhance competitiveness.

Even though East Asia had been insulated from the recession in the industrialised countries, it was not oblivious to the fact that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries were and would remain a major contributor to the global economy.

Developing countries would benefit from a "rejuvenation of growth in older industrialised economies.

"If we can free ourselves of protectionism and reverse the movement towards the formation of new trading blocs, we can develop a new partnership, one which can operate to disperse growth and prosperity around the globe.

"There is no miracle agent or quick-fix for growth, it is the outcome of hard work and diligence, continuous investment in human and physical capital and policies that promote entrepreneurship."

Anwar said this had been Malaysia's experience and that there was a need to be "wary of the residual mentality of the Cold War era and outlook that seeks to exaggerate

security issues and provoke tensions, thus once again diverting our energies from development."

He told the Ministers that ASEAN's experience had taught that regional stability and productive relations must be earned through good neighbourliness and mutual trust.

Foreign Minister Urges ASEAN Cooperation

*BK2303082994 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0329 GMT 23 Mar 94*

[Text] Singapore, March 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) inaugural meeting should emphasize common areas instead of bringing in contentious issues, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said Tuesday.

Highlighting the issue right from the start might not be good as it could relate to the position of a particular country, he added.

The country may ask why should it attend the meeting if it were to be the subject of criticism ... Then it might lose interest, he told a press conference at the end of a two-day official visit to Singapore.

The 18-member ARF created during the ASEAN ministerial meeting (AMM) here last year is scheduled to hold its first session in Bangkok in July.

It is made up of ASEAN, its dialogue partners, and regional powers.

I think the first forum should give opportunities for general discussion on the subject of confidence-building measures, said Abdullah who was here at the invitation of his Singapore counterpart, Prof. S. Jayakumar.

But, certainly, we wouldn't want to stop anybody from raising questions which may be sensitive, he added, saying he did not rule out the probability.

He said he did not think there would be difficulty in handling such issues because this is not going to be a meeting of strangers.

Abdullah said the ARF was an important forum and, naturally, Malaysia wanted it to succeed.

Trade Minister Hopes To Form EAEC by 1995

*BK2303060494 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0355 GMT 23 Mar 94*

[By S. Renuka]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—A senior Malaysian minister is hopeful the Malaysia-initiated East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), initiated by Malaysia and which is currently on a membership drive, will take off before the end of next year.

Rafidah Aziz, who is trade and industry minister, said the grouping would comprise the ASEAN members in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the new market economies in Indochina.

She hoped that the grouping would be launched before the 18th PECC [Pacific Economic Cooperation Council] general meeting which will be held in 18 months' time.

The decision to form this loose informal grouping was born out of the necessity to maximise the potential in the East Asian region and opposing perceptions to the EAEC are coloured by non-economic factors, she said here.

The ASEAN Secretariat is in the midst of talks with the potential launch members towards determining the objectives of the grouping.

The reasons behind the formation of the EAEC are basic and sane, she reiterated while assuaging fears that the grouping would evolve into a trade bloc.

Speaking from the perspective of East Asia and open regionalism, she pointed out the trade and investment inter-dependence in East Asia was equally significant when compared with the region's trade with the rest of the world.

We are all export-led economies, she said to underscore the fact that the proposed grouping would remain a loose consultative forum and consistent with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

On APEC, she said that group had strayed from its original objective into a new format, heightened by the informal leaders summit in Seattle.

Daihatsu Pledges Technology Transfer

OW2303120694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1143 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 23 KYODO—A Japanese partner in Malaysia's second national car project pledged Wednesday [23 March] to impart its technology faster than in the first project that involves another Japanese automaker.

The assurance by a senior Daihatsu Motor Co. official followed Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's complaint Monday that Mitsubishi Motors Corp. has been slow in transferring its engine and transmission technology to its Malaysian partners in Proton.

Daihatsu is scheduled to begin producing 660cc minicars modeled on the Mira in July, initially procuring about 50 percent of parts locally for the "Perodua Kancil" model.

Perodua derives from the second national car maker's Malay name while kancil (mouse deer) is the car's pet name.

"We hope to achieve the 75 percent local content target in the Perodua Kancil earlier than the 1997 schedule,"

Daihatsu general manager Kentaro Shimizu was quoted as saying by the national BERNAMA NEWS AGENCY.

"We will increase the transfer of technology from the production of engines, machinery, parts and transmission systems gradually to plant construction and the sales area," he said.

Thai Fishermen Jailed for Illegal Fishing

BK2303095194 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0340 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Eleven Thai fishermen were fined a total of RM [Malaysian ringgit] 1.5 million (about U.S. \$600,000) by the magistrate's court in east coast Terengganu state Wednesday for encroaching in Terengganu waters.

All the 11, aged between 20 and 32, who were detained in two boats, did not pay their fines.

Duoy, the skipper of the boat "Suntrananti 3," was fined RM280,000 (about U.S. \$112,000) in default two-and-a-half months' jail while his four crew members were fined [figures indistinct] in default one-and-a-half months' jail each. All four were from Pattani.

Pyak, the skipper of the other boat "Daraphot," was fined [figures indistinct] (about U.S. \$160,000) in default three months' jail, while his five-member crew from Pakphanang were fined RM100,000 (about U.S. \$40,000) in default two months' jail each.

Magistrate Ahmad Zamzini Mohamed Zain also ordered that their boats and fishing gear be confiscated.

Singapore

Analyst Denies Giving Information to Reporter

BK2203153694 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Mar 94 p 19

[By Warren Fernando and Brendan Pereira]

[Text] Defence lawyer Michael Khoo yesterday rejected a suggestion by the prosecution that his client had admitted communicating secret information to a BUSINESS TIMES [BT] reporter.

Such a suggestion was based on a selective reading of statements by Crosby Securities analyst, Manu Bhaskaran, to the Internal Security Department, he said on day 37 of the Official Secrets Act trial.

He was referring to the prosecution's written submissions which had mentioned Bhaskaran's "admission of a direct communication of the flash estimate" to BT journalist Kenneth James.

Mr. Khoo described this as a "phantom admission", saying it did not exist in his client's statements.

Bhaskaran, he noted, had told James that he came across the 4.6 percent figure inadvertently and did not know it was the official flash estimate.

He had doubts about it because he thought the figure was too low.

This did not amount to an admission that he had communicated official data, Mr. Khoo argued.

Attorney-General Chan Sek Beong countered that the lawyer had taken his submission out of context.

The prosecution's argument was that whatever Bhaskaran now said, he had sighted the 4.6 percent figure, which turned out to be the official flash estimate.

Mr. Khoo replied: "It may well be that the 4.6 figure was the flash estimate. But my client is not charged with having made a good guess of what it was, but with communicating it. The fact that it turned out to be the flash estimate is irrelevant."

Bhaskaran faces one charge of receiving the official flash estimate and two of communicating it.

Continuing his submission yesterday, Mr. Khoo said there were other instances in which the prosecution had relied on parts of his client's statements, while ignoring others. This was wholly untenable, he said, urging the court to read the statements in context.

He also maintained that the prosecution had failed to produce evidence to prove that Bhaskaran was BT's source of the data.

The information was widely known among BT staffers and could have come from elsewhere, he said.

James could have been mistaken when he told a colleague that Bhaskaran was his source. He had told Bhaskaran that he woke up one night with the thought that the analyst "was not the one", the lawyer noted.

Besides, noted Mr. Khoo, Bhaskaran is alleged to have told James about the flash estimate for the overall economy only.

But, after speaking with one of its reporters, chief statistician Paul Cheung had concluded that BT knew about the growth figures for various sectors of the economy as well.

It was possible some other source, and not Bhaskaran, had leaked both the sectoral figures and the official flash estimate to BT, he said.

BT correspondent Anna Teo had also told Mr. Lai Seck Khui, the deputy secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, that BT had obtained the information from government sources, he added.

The prosecution is expected to respond to his submissions later this week.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Attack Battambang, Injury 10

BK2203152894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT
22 Mar 94

[Text] Phnom Veng, Cambodia, March 22 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge fighters launched a lightning attack against government forces in northwest Cambodia Tuesday only two days after losing their last bastion, sources said.

In a dawn assault, about 150 members of the notorious ultra-nationalist faction attacked government positions in the Bavel district of Battambang Province, northeast of the former Khmer Rouge stronghold of Pailin, local police said.

The guerrillas attacked around 5:30 a.m., injuring two police officers, two local militia and six soldiers, one of them seriously, an officer said.

The Khmer Rouge also targeted a weapons warehouse and burned it down, he said, adding that two guerrillas were killed before government forces repelled the assault four hours.

"Because we destroyed their nest in Pailin, they have lost their temper and they just go everywhere in the area to try and disturb us, rob the villagers and burn peoples' homes," the police officer said.

In Thmar Kot, about halfway between Battambang and Sisophon, soldiers opened fire with heavy machine guns and artillery at what they said was an advancing force of Khmer Rouge.

More guerrilla attacks were expected late Tuesday night, and aid agencies were put on a security alert and warned not to go to Bavel district.

Cambodian government forces say they seized Pailin, once a bustling gem-mining and logging centre, this weekend.

Trucks, heavy guns and multiple-rocket launchers were rushed to reinforce the town on Tuesday, but got bogged down in thick mud and heavy rain on Highway 10, a strategic route that has also yet to be cleared of suspected landmines, an AFP reporter saw.

Tuesday's attack came only a day after a senior government general said that the Khmer Rouge's estimated 1,500 fighters in the area had probably broken up into small groups.

Around 25,000 Cambodians have fled into eastern Thailand to escape the fighting, an armed forces spokesman in Bangkok said Monday.

KRAF Denies Using Chemical Weapons in Pailin*BK2303040294 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0200 GMT 23 Mar 94*

[Text] Brigadier General Nhean Manou, Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF] General Staff spokesman, said on the afternoon of 22 March that the KRAF is able to attack effectively and occupy Khmer Rouge-controlled areas to end their secession.

Commenting on a BANGKOK POST report saying that the government forces had used chemical weapons in the Pailin onslaught, the KRAF spokesman said the royal government has never purchased any chemical weapons and that no chemical weapons have ever been supplied by another country during the war. He pointed out that in the Anlung Veng and Pailin areas as well as in (?Kompong Thom Province), more than 10 KRAF combatants have died after drinking water from streams and ponds poisoned by the Khmer Rouge.

Regarding the Khmer Rouge strategy, the general said after the attacks on Anlung Veng and Pailin, their biggest strongholds, the Khmer Rouge have regrouped at Malai in order to plan their last-ditch strategy to further their destructive war against the nation as they have done in the past.

Khmer Rouge Urged To Return to Community*BK2303060694 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Mar 94*

[Station commentary: "In the Boxing Ring With the Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] With a spirit of national reconciliation and unity, the royal government has repeatedly called on the opinionated Khmer Rouge to stop the war and return to the national community. The group, however, continues to refuse and ignore the offers. Moreover, it has also accused First Prime Minister Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh of causing the failure of talks in the past. Now the group is nearing an irreversible point where it will inevitably face a danger, since the Khmer Royal Armed Forces have pledged to preserve the unity of the country.

The Khmer Rouge should correct their mistakes and proceed along the right path by being content with national reconciliation. With promised aid worth nearly \$1,800 million, it would be wise for the Khmer Rouge to join the national community to serve the country and rebuild it toward glory. It is certain that difficulties still remain. However, if the former warring parties, such as the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, the Cambodian People's Party, and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, can forget past differences and unite for the interests of the nation and people, the Khmer Rouge should follow their fine model and join them. This will certainly allow all of them to live in prosperity.

VGNUFC Says Bavel District Liberated*BK2203163294 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 22 Mar 94*

[Text] At 0600 on 22 March, the people and National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] jointly attacked and totally routed the forces of the Vietnamese communist puppets and two-headed government at Bavel district seat [Battambang Province] and totally liberated Bavel District.

These forces of the Vietnamese communist puppets and two-headed government are from the right-wing front-line headquarters located along the bank of the Mongkol Borei river [words indistinct] Sala Krau within the framework of the offensive to seize Pailin. The people and NADK, however, having grasped the plan of the Vietnamese communist puppets and two-headed government, smashed this important headquarters of them. We killed 12 enemy soldiers, wounded 19, and captured 12 others; destroyed 36 assorted weapons; and seized a T-54 tank, two (737-mm guns), a 85-mm cannon, two 12.7-mm guns, 17 AK rifles, five B-40's, 12 Ar-15's, and a quantity of ammunition.

Rebels Deny Government Controls Pailin*BK2303021094 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Mar 94*

["Statement by National Army of Democratic Kampuchea spokesman rejecting the communique of the Vietnamese puppets and two-headed government on their seizure of Pailin"; dated 22 March—read by announcer]

[Text] I. The Vietnamese communist puppets and the two-headed government clamorously announced in Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Treng that they have seized Pailin. Meanwhile, some foreign news agencies and newspapers have echoed this announcement of the Vietnamese communist puppets and the two-headed government in an evil intention to deceive the national and international public opinion just as they did concerning the Anlung Veng battlefield.

II. Many observers and journalists stressed, however, that they had been waiting several days for permission to go to Pailin, but the Vietnamese communist puppets and the two-headed government did not allow them to go. They waited in Battambang and Treng for several days, but they did not reach Pailin. Therefore, they assumed that the Vietnamese puppets had not yet seized Pailin as they claimed. The Vietnamese communist puppets and the two-headed government lied. They also reported that on the Route 10-Pailin battlefield, many attacking troops of the Vietnamese communist puppets and two-headed government were killed and wounded. The routed troops who retreated from the battlefield said that hundreds of their colleagues were killed and wounded.

Several hundred other wounded troops were hospitalized. The attacking troops died in battle and also due to a shortage of water and food, while hundreds deserted their ranks. Those deserters also said that the Vietnamese communist puppets and the two-headed government lied to them that their troops were fighting on the front line; but, in fact, they were very far from Pailin.

III. The spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] would like to stress to the national and international audience that:

A. Not a single soldier of the Vietnamese communist puppets and the two-headed government was able to enter Pailin city. Presently, Pailin remains under the control of Democratic Kampuchea in an orderly manner.

B. We would like to inform the national and international audience that the Vietnamese communist puppets, two-headed government, and their masters who have continued to kindle war and oppose national reconciliation, peace, constitution, and the king have made an all-out effort to smash the national forces and people in order to enable Vietnam to swallow Cambodia and enable their allies to seize and incorporate Cambodia into their arena. This is why they have given money to the Vietnamese communist puppets and two-headed government for continuing to fuel the war. They ordered the attack on Anlung Veng and claimed to have won victory and to have seized this area. In fact, they suffered heavy and shameful defeats. The journalists and national and international public opinion have been informed about this big defeat at Anlung Veng—they met a crushing defeat and swore not to fight again for the rest of their lives.

While launching this new offensive, they shamelessly claimed to have seized Pailin in such a way in an attempt, on the one hand, to whitewash their big defeat at Anlung Veng and, on the other, to beg for more money and to put pressure on FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. They also went so far as to flex their muscles for the king when puppets Hun Sen and Chea Sim visited Beijing.

IV. We would like to stress that on 17 and 18 March, the attacking forces of the Vietnamese communist puppets and two-headed government were severely smashed by the NADK forces, inflicting heavy losses on them in terms of manpower, tanks, and artillery. Many of their forces were forced to retreat and flee in disarray. On 19 March, puppet Hun Sen and the Political Bureau of the Cambodian People's Party of the Vietnamese communists ordered their forces to make an adventurous assault. On 19 March, the attacking forces then began their onslaught, using tanks and artillery as the principle means. They moved up to Sala Krau, but were intercepted and attacked from the rear and the front by the NADK forces. They were cut to pieces and four of their 20 tanks were destroyed. The remaining 16 tanks moved

up to Sala Krau on the night of 19 March. The people and NADK surrounded them from all directions, cutting the attacking forces into many parts in the area from Kon Damrei to (Phum Don Ta).

On the afternoon of 21 March, we destroyed two tanks and damaged three others. In addition to the nine tanks we destroyed between 8 and 18 March, we destroyed 14 other tanks. The remaining tanks are short of fuel and the enemy soldiers are suffering shortages of food, ammunition, and spare parts to repair the damaged tanks. They are encircled in a four to five kilometer area at Sala Krau where the people's forces and the NADK are continuing to attack and capture as many of them as possible.

The attacking forces' supply is inoperable. This is, on the one hand, caused by heavy rains as their vehicles get bogged down and cannot move forward. On the other hand, they often hit land mines and are targets of attack from the people and NADK. Many of them are thus destroyed, damaged, and stalled in the fields.

The doomday of the Vietnamese communist puppets and the two-headed government is drawing near. They will soon suffer a similar big defeat, just as they did at Anlung Veng because their forces—including tanks, infantrymen, and so forth—that have hazardedly moved forward are already being intercepted by the people and NADK.

[Signed] NADK spokesman
[Dated] 22 March 1994

Police Arrest MORNING NEWS Editor

**BK2303114194 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT
23 Mar 94**

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 23 (AFP)—The political editor of the bi-weekly MORNING NEWS newspaper, Nguon Non, was arrested Wednesday at the paper's offices on defamation charges, family and police sources said.

Police arrested Nguon Non—also a member of co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh's cabinet—mid-morning at the MORNING NEWS offices, his son Norin Lakshmi, the newspaper's publication director told AFP.

A high-ranking police officer, requesting anonymity, confirmed the arrest, which he said was due to a defamation case.

"Mr. Nguon Non was summoned twice before a tribunal and he did not respond," he said.

The government would make no comment on the arrest, except to say it was studying the incident.

The MORNING NEWS was founded at the beginning of the month, and has a reported circulation of 30,000.

According to Norin Lakhmi, who called the arrest an "abuse of rights," the arrest of his father was linked to recent articles denouncing official corruption in Cambodia.

Ngaon Non's arrest followed the publication last month of assurances by King Norodom Sihanouk that press rights in Cambodia would be respected.

Indonesia

Nuclear Plant To Continue Despite Opposition

BK2303092794 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] The planned construction of the Gunung Muria Nuclear Power Plant in Central Java will continue despite strong public reaction, particularly those from environmentalists. Jali Ahimsa, director general of the National Atomic Energy Agency (BATAN), said this to reporters after opening a meeting of a working group of Asia-Pacific atomic experts in Kuta, Bali. According to the BATAN director general, a lack of funds is the main obstacle in the construction of the Gunung Muria Nuclear Power Plant. However, he attached great importance to the use of nuclear power because Indonesia will need huge electricity supplies, particularly in Java and Bali, in the future.

Suharto, Singapore Minister Meet on Defense

BK2203141094 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Mar 94 p 3

[By Paul Jacob Jakarta]

[Text] Jakarta—President Suharto encouraged the Indonesian and Singapore Armed Forces yesterday to continue working together, saying it was important for the two sides to cooperate closely and have a good working relationship. He made the comments to visiting Singapore Defence Minister Yeo Ning Hong, who paid a courtesy call on the Indonesian leader at the Istana Merdeka [Presidential Palace] in central Jakarta.

Dr. Yeo, accompanied by the Indonesian Defence and Security Minister, retired General Edi Sudrajat, told reporters after the half-hour meeting that the discussions centred on general defence cooperation matters.

While he did not go into the details he said Mr. Suharto gave his views on the importance of close cooperation between ASEAN member-countries.

This included defence ties between Singapore and Indonesia, which involve regular joint exercises between the air forces and navies of the two countries currently, as well as cooperation in search and rescue and anti-piracy patrols.

Naval and air force exercises have been held since 1974 and 1980 respectively, but the two armies began exercises only in 1989 when Indonesian troops were sent to

Singapore. This is now a regular feature of bilateral cooperation with each country hosting the exercises alternately.

A 1989 agreement paved the way for such annual army exercises with benefits for both sides. Among other things, Singapore has access to various sites for land training exercises while Indonesia gains access to military technology, such as the use of training simulators and computer wargaming.

Dr. Yeo arrived here in the morning for talks with Gen. Sudrajat and to call on President Suharto. A Singapore Defence Ministry statement said the visit reflected the warm and close ties between Singapore and Indonesia.

He left this morning for the Riau provincial capital of Pekanbaru in northern Sumatera, where he and Gen. Sudrajat will witness the commissioning of an Air Combat Manoeuvring Range (ACMR).

The range, an air combat training site developed jointly by the Indonesian and Singapore armed forces, will be opened by Indonesian armed forces chief, General Feisal Tanjung, and Singapore Chief of Defence Forces, Major-General Ng Jui Ping.

Dr. Yeo, who in August 1991 attended the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the development of the range, pointed to it as one of a number of joint projects undertaken by the two sides over the years.

The air combat range augments the Siabu air weapons range, opened in 1989 in central Sumatera, which allows the air forces of the two countries to conduct air-to-ground training.

Dr. Yeo, who is scheduled to return to Singapore this afternoon, is accompanied on the Jakarta leg of his visit by the Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr. Lim Siong Guan; the Chief of Air Force, Brigadier General Bey Soo Kiang; the Chief of Navy, Commodore Kwek Siew Jin; and senior ministry and SAF [Singapore Air Force] officers.

Joint Air Combat Range Set With Singapore

BK2203154194 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The Indonesian and Singapore Armed Forces jointly commissioned the Air Combat Maneuvering Range in Pekanbaru this morning. The range, equipped with the latest technology, will help raise the level of air combat training among pilots from the Indonesian and the Republic of Singapore Air Forces. The technology records air combat maneuvers, so pilots can gauge their performance.

The commanders in chief of both Air Forces commissioned the range. The event was witnessed by Indonesia's Minister for Defense and Security General Edi Sudrajat and Singapore's Defense Minister Dr. Yeo Ning Hong. It

marks another milestone in the close bilateral defense cooperation between Indonesia and Singapore.

Editorial Views Cuban Minister's Visit

BK2303101494 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 11 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Way Can't the Blockade on Cuba Be Abrogated If the Embargo on Vietnam Can Be Lifted?"]

[Text] The visit by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina was an eventful one. Apart from signing a cooperation agreement on economy and trade with Indonesia, Foreign Minister Robaina also briefed Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on his country's problems.

It can be said that the Republic of Cuba is one of the five communist regimes left in the world. Situated in close proximity to the United States, the regime under Fidel Castro's leadership, has been under the U.S. economic blockade for almost three decades. The Republic of Cuba has withstood the stringent economic blockade all this while. Undeniably, Cuba was able to weather the blockade due to the Soviet Union's huge subsidies.

Apparently, subsidies to Cuba terminated with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Cuba's economic situation was unquestionably threatened due to the termination of the subsidies. Moreover, observers believe that Fidel Castro's days are numbered due to this reality.

That is the reason for Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina's visit to several Asian nations—Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar [Burma], India, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina's diplomatic tour is aimed entirely at mustering sympathy and clarifying Cuba's economic situation. Cuba considers the U.S. economic blockade as totally unjust.

Indonesia, which has close relations with Cuba, is currently interested in further upgrading its economic and trade relations with Cuba, apart from further improving bilateral political ties.

As another developing country in the Nonaligned Movement, Indonesia is showing its concern for Cuba. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas stated strongly that Indonesia will never accept the imposition of the philosophy or ideology of one country on another.

He said: "We have never accepted the blockade against Cuba. Every country has the right to determine its own political system." The foreign minister also stated that Indonesia's basic foreign policy provides for the right of one country to determine its own destiny. That is why Indonesia will never accept the United States' economic blockade against Cuba.

The blockade against Cuba should give rise to several questions, considering the fact that the United States

itself experienced great resentment over Vietnam. In fact, the United States lifted its economic embargo on Vietnam last month.

Why does the United States still want to carry on with such a practice—the residual heritage of the Cold War, which lasted for 34 years?

Looking at the historical perspective, the U.S.-Cuban conflict reached its climax when the issue of Soviet SS-4 and SS-5 missiles was brought to the fore. The United States then announced its economic blockade against Cuba in 1962. Presently, there are no more missiles in Cuba and the Soviet Union has ceased to exist. Therefore, animosity should not exist between the two countries anymore.

But according to a statement reported by Carlos Batista of the INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE, even though Cuba is not considered as an offensive "enemy," there are no indications that Washington will not change its attitude toward this island nation in the Caribbean. Besides, John Shalikashvili, commander of the U.S. Armed Forces, reiterated that the "rival regime" still exists in Havana—the reason why the U.S. military will always remain constantly on alert.

We are in no position to study the United States rationale in detail. Besides, it is our fervent hope that with the present changes taking place, the United States will reconsider its decision on the economic blockade against Cuba.

As a result of the conflict, the United States has to bear the responsibility of accepting the flow of emigrants from Havana. But Cuba considers the embargo as an "incurable and invincible disease which brings along destruction anywhere it settles."

According to analysts, the embargo has caused Cuba to suffer an economic loss of about U.S. \$40 billion—more than five times the amount of loans which Cuba has taken from the West. The amount is also 20 times more than the total amount of Cuba's imports.

Certainly, Cuba has blamed the United States for the embargo, which has caused its people to suffer. There are others who share such an opinion, particularly after former U.S. President George Bush intensified the blockade through what he termed the Torricelli Laws.

It is possible that the U.S. decision to prolong the blockade against Cuba is probably due to the opposition by the Miami-based Hispanic and conservative communities. In other words, domestic politics have a role in the question of imposing the economic blockade.

The United States will definitely stress—as it has clarified to the other developing nations—that the decision to lift the embargo will solely depend on Cuban leader Fidel Castro's willingness to embark on reforms in his country.

But whatever the case may be, Indonesia will definitely extend its support to Cuba. It is hoped that similar support will be extended by the other Asian countries visited by Foreign Minister Robina.

Philippines

Communists Warn of 'Bloody Confrontation'
*BK2303015094 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 21 Mar 94 pp 1, 10*

[By Carlito Pablo]

[Text] Dissident cadres within the communist movement have warned that their ideological fray with rival groups could break out into a bloody confrontation.

A leader of the third faction that emerged from the splintering of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) charged that pro-Sison stalwarts have fielded a special armed unit in Metro Manila.

"We are appealing to former comrades at the top hierarchy to stick to friendly competition," said the third-bloc leader, who insisted on anonymity at the moment.

"But they should be forewarned that we have the capability to hit back if attacked first," he said.

The third faction, composed mostly of former members of the CPP National United Front Commission (NUFC), made known its breakaway from the 25-year-old Maoist party on Saturday [19 March].

Claiming to have its own fighting force and peasant-worker mass base, the group vowed to pursue a debate with rival factions to resolve festering questions of strategy and tactics.

The mainstream CPP is reportedly headed by Armando Liwanag, believed to be an assumed name of party founder Jose Maria Sison. It has retained strong control over the New People's Army.

Another group of party dissidents based in Metro Manila and parts of Rizal declared "autonomy" from the central leadership in July last year. Headed by Carlos Forte, the group controls an armed wing, the Alex Boncayao Brigade.

The party's splintering came after a plenum held by the CPP Central Committee in 1992 reaffirmed the Maoist strategy of encircling the cities from the countryside through an extensive guerrilla warfare.

The plenum repudiated the line of quick victory through urban uprisings and premature formation of regular guerrilla formations espoused by anti-Sison leaders.

A spokesman from the CPP's "caretaker NUFC" denied prospects that the bitter squabble over party politics would lead to an armed encounter.

"We are very confident that ringleaders of these two (Forte and third-bloc) factions will soon fade into irrelevance as their followers are slowly realizing that they have been misled," the spokesman said.

"Their political bankruptcy will push them into isolation and the party would have become stronger even without lifting a finger against them," he added.

The third-bloc cadre said a platoon-size unit has been "operationalized" by the CPP Central Committee after its members completed commando training recently in Batangas.

Tagged Edgar Jopson Brigade after a former student leader who was slain by soldiers in 1982 in Davao, the unit is allegedly composed of selected communist gunmen from Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Samar and Mindanao.

Meanwhile, a leader of the National Confederation of Labor (NCL) yesterday clarified that his group's formation has nothing to do with the ongoing rift within the CPP.

Ibarra Malonzo, NCL secretary general, told the INQUIRER that majority of the federation's union affiliates have never been part of the CPP or its sympathizers.

Although they used to be affiliated with the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Movement), Malonzo said "we never considered we were part of the CPP or the national democratic forces."

The INQUIRER reported the other day that the third communist faction was believed to have been instrumental in the setting up of NCL and another political alliance, the Siglaya.

Siglaya and NCL leaders said their groups are "two totally different organizations from different initiatives."

Insurgent Leaders Saved From 'Liquidation Plot'
*BK2303023294 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in
English 21 Mar 94 p S-16*

[By Sel A. Bayas]

[Text] The AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) Civil Relations Service (CRS) said yesterday the capture of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) leader in the Visayas and other top local insurgent leaders "may have saved them from being liquidated by their own comrades."

Citing an intelligence report, the CRS, led by Brig. Gen. Rene S. Dado, said a rebel strike force was assigned to kill communist leaders led by Arturo Tabara, CPP chief in the Visayas.

The liquidation plot was reportedly hatched after Tabara and his men defected to the "Revisionist" faction.

The plot was detected by military intelligence agents in the region.

On the other hand, the military is looking into a report that leaders of the "Stalinist" bloc have sent reinforcements to their comrades on Negros Island.

"The move was intended to strengthen the remaining Stalinist elements on Negros Island and prevent the underground movement from falling completely under the control of the rival bloc," the CRS added.

NDF Leaders Said Willing To Resume Peace Talks

BK2303064894 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Mar 94 pp 1, 8

[By Aris R. Ilagan]

[Text] Top leaders of the National Democratic Front (NDF) now living in exile in the Netherlands have expressed their willingness to resume anew peace negotiations with government representatives based on the joint declaration agreed upon by the government and communist leaders in The Hague last year.

Tarlac Rep. Jose Yap who is a member of the government panel, said in a television talk show late Thursday night that NDF leader Luis Jalandoni told him over the phone from the Netherlands last Sunday that they are willing to proceed with the peace talks.

Yap said that after their exploratory talks with Jalandoni and Jose Ma. Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) who is also seeking political asylum in the Netherlands, the peace initiative will now deal with the establishment of committee level talks in preparation for the holding of formal negotiations.

The peace negotiations with top leaders of the CPP, the New People's Army (NPA), and the NDF have remained suspended following a deadlock on the issue of venue.

While the government has adopted a "shifting venue" concept as part of the confidence-building process, Hague-based NDF leaders led by Sison have not made any decision on their choice for the next meeting place with government representatives.

The initial choice of the NDF was in Hanoi, Vietnam, but Sison later rejected the venue for still undetermined reasons.

On the other hand, former communist leader Saturnino Ocampo said that the impending amnesty declaration of President Ramos should not provoke the NDF into changing its position of including the rebels who have not availed of the government's amnesty package.

Ocampo also opposed the imposition of a deadline on the peace negotiations once the presidential amnesty for rebels, may it be conditional or unconditional, has been declared by the Chief Executive.

Col. Rufo de Veyra, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), declined to issue any comment on the possible effects of President Ramos' amnesty package, adding that any statement on the issue will only be speculative.

However, any decision made by the president with regard to the amnesty issue will be fully supported by the military, he said.

Joint Meeting

President Ramos has called the chairmen and members of the three government peace panels to a joint meeting in Malacanang [presidential office] on Monday, 21 March, to review the progress of the peace process with all the rebel groups in the country.

In a handwritten memorandum, the president instructed Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. to also invite advisers from the Cabinet, Senate, and House of Representatives to attend the conference.

During the meeting, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) will brief those attending the meeting on the status of the peace negotiations with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the National Democratic Front-New People's Army- Communist Party of the Philippines, and the military rebels.

Internal Reforms

Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal—Lt. Gen. Arturo Enrile, Philippine Army commander, said yesterday that with peace within "arm's reach," his command has embarked on a program of sustaining internal reforms and upgrading equipment and resources as part of its general shift from counter-insurgency to external defense of the nation.

Speaking at the 18th anniversary celebration of the Army's Second Infantry (Jungle Fighters) Division, Enrile said that the military has already dismantled the political-military structure of the New People's Army (NPA) in most parts of the country, particularly in the Southern Luzon and Bicol countryside.

He said that the communist rebels have now been pushed deeper into mountain enclaves where they are isolated and deprived of the popular support essential in the conduct of the insurgency war.

Enrile praised the officers and men of the Army division under Brig Gen. Regino Lacason for having done much toward the achievement of peace in Southern Luzon and Bicol.

Enrile also cited the Army division's "Galloping Clouds" campaign that maximize the opportunities to reach out to the masses and "give an entirely new and larger meaning to the traditional concept as a civil military operation."

Candidate for L.A. Consul-General Withdrawn*BK2303063494 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English
0230 GMT 23 Mar 94*

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos on Tuesday directed Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. to formally withdraw from the Commission on Appointment the nomination of Tomas Gomez III as consul-general to Los Angeles (L.A.), California. The president issued the instruction after Gomez, former press secretary of ex-President Corazon C. Aquino, asked him to withdraw his nomination during a 30-minute meeting with the president. Gomez said in a letter he gave to President Ramos, and I [broadcaster] quote, the Commission on Appointments developments concerning my going to Los Angeles have become untenable and it appears that I may have become a liability to you when the least I could do is not to add to the burden that the president already has. It was evident that the foreign affairs community is not at all bothered that its very own constitutional process has been knowingly mocked and abused by a witness who lied under solemn affirmation, unquote, or Gomez, at the second statement, was referring to Dr. Carlos Manlapaz who accused Gomez of making anti-Ilocano statements. The former press secretary stressed he has not asked to be posted to Los Angeles. It was Secretary Roberto Romulo's suggestion, the foreign affairs secretary, that he accepted his posting which he [Romulo] recommended to the president.

Australian Minister on Energy Cooperation*BK2303015494 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 21 Mar 94 p 20*

[Text] Australia and the Philippines have agreed to cooperate closely on energy to help boost trade and investments between the two countries, Australian Trade Minister Robert McMullan said.

He said an Australian energy mission will visit Manila in May to coincide with the first meeting of the proposed joint working group on energy.

"We expect it (mission) to find a lot of trade opportunities for Australia... and provide opportunities for the Philippines to take initiatives to resolve its energy situation," McMullan told reporters at the airport before leaving Manila on Saturday [19 March].

The trade official arrived on Thursday as part of a tour of member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and is to visit Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

Australia had been helping the Philippines in the oil exploration field.

Only recently, the Australian Government financed the survey work on several prospective oil-bearing structures in the Philippines.

The first report on the results of the survey was released last month and pointed to the areas where oil reserves could have accumulated over the years.

The drilling season is set to start next month and several local and foreign oil exploration companies will be searching for oil in offshore Palawan, Mindoro, and the Sulu Sea.

The Philippines depends on imported crude. Recent oil discoveries have helped cut these imports. One of the country's biggest oil strikes, the Linapacan oil field off Palawan, initially produced at least 15,000 barrels a day until water started to seep into the pipe.

Two foreign firms—Shell Exploration and Occidental Petroleum—are working on the development of a much bigger oil structure called the Malampaya field. This structure contains a sizable amount of natural gas and crude oil.

Thailand**Envoy on U.S. Private Sector Pressure on IPR***BK2203040394 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
22 Mar 94 p 24*

[Text] Private sector groups in the US have asked the US Trade Representative (USTR) to keep Thailand on the Priority Watch List (PWL) of countries monitored for their protection of intellectual property rights (IPR), because the amendment of the Thai draft Copyright Bill is still pending.

The Thai Commercial Counsellor in Washington, Nupthong Thongyai, said the US International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) recently submitted a request to the USTR that Thailand be kept on the list until the Copyright Law is amended.

The IIPA also suggested placing China on the list of Priority Foreign Countries (PFC) which may face trade retaliation from the US because they do not have sufficient protection for US copyright works. It said copyright violations in China were hurting US manufacturers. China is on the PWL after being removed from the PFC list in 1991.

The US will announce this April whether it will remove Thailand from the PWL, but such a move is not expected until the draft amendment of the Copyright Law passes its third reading in Parliament.

A source in the Thai music industry said China was copying foreign compact discs. Some of the copies were being shipped to Thailand for sale locally and resale abroad.

Mr. Nupthong said the US still wanted Thailand to lower its tariffs on exposed film from the current rate of 10 baht per metre to five baht, but the case was not serious.

as the countries had agreed they should negotiate on this issue under General Agreement on Tariff and Trade talks.

Envoys to U.S. Comments on Textile Issues

BK2203041594 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
22 Mar 94 p 24

[Text] A group of 75 US congressmen, led by John Spratt, Head of the Congressional Textile Caucus, has urged US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor to take retaliatory measures against nine major textile exporters, including Thailand, charging them with failing to satisfactorily open their markets for access of US textile exports by a February 15 deadline.

According to a report from the Thai Commercial Counsellor in Washington to the Commerce Permanent Secretary, the nine textile and garment exporters targeted for US action are Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Korea, Hong Kong, Turkey and the Philippines.

The report maintained that the US textile group cast doubt on whether the US government could achieve success in its market-opening talks with other countries under the Uruguay Round negotiations, which is scheduled to be endorsed on April 15.

The group was disappointed as the US could not negotiate to prolong the textile agreement. It demanded the government do what it had promised: open foreign markets for US products like the US market is opened for foreign imports.

The group has proposed the US government impose retaliatory measures against countries failing to satisfactorily open their markets for US products.

The measures proposed include:

- Increasing customs duties on major textile products.
- Opposing membership applications to the World Trade Organisation.
- Cancelling the generalised system of preference privileges.

Prime Minister's SRV Trip Marked as Successful

BK2103074894 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
21 Mar 94 pp 19, 28

[By Walailak Kiratiphiphathong]

[Text] Businessmen who were part of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's delegation to Vietnam last week say they are confident that the agreement signed by the governments of Thailand and Vietnam will build better bilateral economic and investment ties.

The businessmen appreciate the Bank of Thailand's policy of allowing qualified Vietnamese companies and Thai-Vietnamese joint ventures to be listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand in the future.

They say the move will be an incentive for local firms to invest more outside Thailand.

Dr Som Chatusiphithak, chairman of the Thai Bankers' Association, and Wichian Techaphaibun, vice-president of the Board of Trade of Thailand have backed the central bank's decision to expand loans through the Bangkok International Banking Facilities (BIBF) scheme.

They say both moves will boost Thailand's push to become a regional financial centre.

The two share the view that it is time the Thai Government offered investment perks for local businessmen to expand their investments abroad, not just providing such privileges for local investment as at present.

Difficulties over monetary regulations include the allowable limit of funds to be taken out for investment abroad, says Mr Wichian, who is also the president of Bangkok Metropolitan Bank.

Thanin Chiarawanon, chairman of the Charoen Phokphan Group, says that even where the two countries have something in common, such as in agricultural goods, Thailand should not consider Vietnam as a rival in exporting. However, the government should promote and support local businessmen to invest here to make Vietnam partially a production base.

Wikrom Kromadit, president of Bangpakong Industrial Park 2 Co, echoes this view. He says the Board of Investment should act as an agency to encourage investment abroad, like the Japan External Trade Organisation.

He sees better prospects for bilateral ties after the Chuan visit, but he thinks real action or real investment from Thailand is much needed.

Mr Wikrom says his Long Binh Industrial Estate project, for which the contract was signed during the Chuan visit to Vietnam, will, if completed, become the hub of Thai investment in Vietnam.

He aims to provide several services including seeking Vietnamese partners and investment consultancy over rules and regulations here.

Many Thai products, for example canned pineapple, canned tuna and other canned seafood products, have a good reputation in foreign markets, and it is thus possible to shift the manufacturing base to Vietnam while using the same Thai brand names.

During the visit, there were two agreements on tourism cooperation an agreement between the Federation of Thai Industries and Vietnam's State Committee for Cooperation and Investment; and four joint investment contracts between Thai firms and Vietnamese government agencies. Mr Chuan witnessed the signing of the contracts.

Cambodians Flee From Heavy Fighting in Pailin*BK2203145194 Bangkok Thai Color Television
Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 22 Mar 94*

[Text] Heavy fighting was reported close to the Thai border between Khmer Rouge soldiers and troops of the Cambodian Government. There was an influx of refugees as well as shells landing in Thailand, opposite Khok Sabaeng Village in Tambon Thakham, Aranyaprathet District, Sa Kaeo Province. The fighting lasted over two hours. Twelve mortar rounds landed at Wat Khok Sabaeng; a house was damaged. There was no report on death or injuries.

According to information from the Cambodians who fled the fighting to the Thai border, two Cambodian border patrol police officials and three Khmer Rouge soldiers were killed. Thai soldiers and border patrol police have been put on alert to prevent infiltration and violation of national sovereignty. There were sounds of gunfire from the fighting between the Cambodian factions.

Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak said that about 35,000 Cambodian civilians fled to the Thai border, and Thailand is giving them help for humanitarian reasons. He said the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] had been informed to provide assistance to the refugees. He, however, confirmed that Thailand will not reopen refugee centers and will push all those people over the border once the fighting is over.

Concerning a report saying the Cambodian Government is using chemical weapons in operations against the Khmer Rouge, Gen. Wichit said he had no information about that, but believed the world would object to such a plan.

Industrialist, PRC Mission on Trade Talks*BK2303030594 Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO
in Chinese 22 Mar 94 p 7*

[Text] Chokchai Aksoranan, chairman of the Thai Federation of Industries, received a trade delegation from China's Jiangsu Province led by Hong Zhenxin. Chokchai said there are bright prospects for Thai investment in China in areas such as factory development, infrastructure construction, and retailing. Thai investors can also export construction materials for projects in China. Simultaneously, there are good opportunities for Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in Thailand to produce goods for export to Indochina. This will help save transportation costs.

Moreover, China's cooperation with ASEAN countries and the quadrangle economic development project involving China, Thailand, Laos, and Burma will enable this region to become an important area of greater economic prosperity. Now, some Thai products such as motorcycles, kitchen ware, consumer products, and construction materials have penetrated the Indochinese

market. However, countries in each region have set up regional trade groups. This has prompted Thailand to enhance its competitiveness in the market by improving development analyses or relocating production bases to other countries with cheaper labor costs. Labor cost in Thailand is much higher than in neighboring countries.

The Chinese chief delegate said Wuxi city has registered the rapid economic growth rate of 25 percent, the highest in Jiangsu Province. There are over 140,000 factories in the city. There are also some 3,669 foreign-owned factories with a combined investment of U.S. \$2,900 million. Chinese entrepreneurs are interested in investing in metallurgical and rubber industries in Thailand.

Interior Minister Comments on Bombings*BK2203044394 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22
Mar 94 pp A1, A2*

[Text] Six incidents involving explosive devices have been recorded this month and all, with the exception of the foiled attack supposedly on the Israeli Embassy last week, were intended to undermine government stability, Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

"The incidents that took place can be divided into two categories. The first involves people wanting to put political pressure on the government, while those responsible for the second category are terrorists," Chawalit said at a press conference after a 90-minute meeting with senior police officers.

Chawalit said the March 3 grenade assault on Social Action leader Montri Phongphanit's home, the March 8 bomb attack on a train in Songkhla's Chana district, the March 9 grenade attack on Deputy Permanent Secretary for Interior Sawai Phramani, the March 13 grenade attack on the Nakhon Phanom governor's residence and the March 20 blast in downtown Hat Ya in Songkhla province fell into the first category.

The truckload of explosive materials which was believed to be aimed at the Israeli Embassy last Thursday was the work of international terrorists the interior minister said.

"I call on the public to remain calm and analyze the situation carefully to arrive at a rational conclusion. I have told you before that I will take responsibility for everything that happens," he said. But he claimed the attacks carried out by disaffected political elements with the aim of destabilizing the government were not of national significance.

"For example, the grenade attack in Nakhon Phanom (at the provincial governor's home) may be a mistake on the part of the assailants," he said.

"Acts of terrorism usually intensify and eventually lead to armed struggle, which is exactly what happened in our country in the past," he said.

Chawalit said his meeting with senior police officers, led by Police Director General Pratin Santipraphop, was to review the political implications of the incidents and to find ways to effectively deal with them.

He said he was satisfied with police investigations into the incidents. But he could not set a deadline for the cases, which he described as difficult to be solved because those involved are not "common criminals".

"Bringing the perpetrators to justice is not beyond the arm of the law," the minister said.

Chawalit said he was summoned by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday morning for a briefing on the latest developments in the investigation into the cases.

Police sources said the interior minister imposed a code of silence on all senior police officers except Pol Gen Pratin.

Pratin, asked to comment on criticism that police always failed to catch people committing terrorist acts, said: "I think we will fail to arrest any of them again this time."

Khachatphai Burutphat, deputy secretary general of the National Security Council, said he briefed the prime minister on the terrorist attacks during a two-hour meeting yesterday.

"Thailand should not be made a target of terrorist attacks. We denounce all acts of international terrorism that affect our internal security," Khachatphai said.

Deputy Chat Thai leader Sano Tianthong said Chawalit should show responsibility for the violence by stepping down because the Police Department under his ministry had failed to solve serious crimes, particularly acts of terrorism.

"It is interesting to note that there have been many bomb attacks since Chawalit took office as interior minister. The interior minister is not supposed to shirk his responsibility now," Sano said.

The deputy Chat Thai leader said he believed the violence could be attributed to local disaffected political groups as well as international terrorists.

Truck Bomb Terrorist Said Still in Country

BK2303123794 Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 23 Mar 94 pp 10, 12

[Text] According to a source at the Police Department, on the night of 21 March, there was an urgent message from the U.S. intelligence service to U.S. officials working with Thai police investigating a plot that involved a one-ton truck-load of explosives found on 17 March. The message said that the fugitive terrorists had not left the country but were still hiding in Thailand. It has also been found that the group has shifted their objective from the targeted embassy to assassination attempts against high-level officials of that same embassy. "Major targets are high-level officials of the

U.S. and Israeli Embassies, as well as those at the Pakistani and some other embassies," the source said.

The source also revealed that U.S. and Thai intelligence authorities found that, on the day the terrorist abandoned the truck, he left a black James Bond briefcase on the truck. It is believed the briefcase contained some important documents. But the case disappeared during the time the truck was parked near the Lumpini police station. The Police Department and the Metropolitan Police Division have already set up a committee to investigate how the briefcase disappeared.

However, police officials at the Metropolitan Police Office declined to discuss this with reporters. They said they were not authorized to give information to newsmen, and that reporters should ask the police director or the metropolitan police commissioner if they want information.

Meanwhile, Police Colonel Suraphon Thongprasoe of the Special Branch Police called an urgent meeting of Special Branch police officials in charge of security for important persons, especially those from diplomatic missions. The non-stop meeting on 21 March began at 0900 and ended at 1430. A police inspector reported that there was an instruction at the meeting that security be stepped up for 24-hour protection of officials and important persons at foreign embassies. There will be an increase in the number of security officials guarding residences of ambassadors as well as embassies, especially the Israeli and U.S. Embassies. The Thai police will maintain around-the-clock coordination with the U.S. intelligence service.

An officer of the Metropolitan Police in charge of security protection for important persons told newsmen that police officials had been assigned to guard important premises and residences of important persons, particularly foreign embassies. The Metropolitan Police will guard the outside areas of the compound whereas the Special Branch Police will provide security at the residences of ambassadors and foreign embassies.

Air Strikes Begin Against South 'Separatists'

BK2103033094 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] Yala—Helicopters from the Pattani-based Civilian-Police-Military [CPM] Command 43 yesterday began air-strikes against a camp of separatist bandits under Ma Sungai Batu of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) on Kudong Mountain in Yaha District.

Col Phongsak Ekbanasing, deputy commander of CPM-43, said the air attacks were launched on intelligence confirmed by aerial reconnaissance that about 30 separatists were at the camp.

Three helicopters from Sirinthorn Camp in Pattani's Yarang District attacked the camp twice yesterday with machineguns.

At the same time, troops were deployed at the foot of the mountain to intercept the bandits fleeing the air attacks which would continue for five days, he said.

Seven government soldiers were wounded last week when a government force activated two landmines on Kudong Mountain while patrolling the area.

Two of the wounded lost their left leg in the mine explosion.

'Outstanding' Drilling Success Reported

*BK2303041694 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Mar 94 p 30*

[Text] The Danish-US consortium led by Maersk Oil & Gas A/S is enjoying outstanding success in its quest for hydrocarbons in the central Gulf of Thailand.

The group has struck what appear to be promising crude, gas and condensate accumulations at three of the five wells drilled in block B8/32.

That may represent the most successful rate among those obtained by foreign groups awarded concession rights in the last round of petroleum licencing called in July 1990.

The results strengthen beliefs that more oil and gas deposits could still be found in other areas of the Gulf, other than those currently under production and development.

According to Maersk Oil (Thailand) resident manager Niels Haun, well Tantawan-1 tested at 6,250 barrels per day (b/d) of crude oil and 25.7 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd) of gas, while the second well Tantawan-2 flowed at 1,760 b/d of condensate and 70.5 MMcfd of gas.

The last discovery well completed recently, Tantawan-3, encountered several hydrocarbon-bearing zones and subsequently five zones were tested with a combined flow rate of 40 MMcfd of gas and 8,862 b/d of crude oil and condensate.

Tantawan-3, the fifth well drilled in the tract, was bored to 10,526 feet. The well was drilled from a surface location some three kilometres north of the Tantawan-1 well, the first discovery well.

While the other two wells are dry holes, Mr Haun told Business Post the results of the \$30-million exploration work carried out so far had been very encouraging.

Consequently, the consortium decided to proceed with the drilling of two additional exploratory wells in the block which are expected to cost \$6-7 million.

Drilling of these wells will be carried out by a Sedco 601 semi-submersible, the same rig used to drill the first five wells, starting in mid-1994.

Mr Haun said it is too early to say if the petroleum finds were sizable enough for commercial production. "We

need to continue with evaluation and analysis and look into the results of the two additional wells before we can draw some conclusions. "With the exploration work already undertaken, the consortium has exceeded the obligations spelt out in the concession agreement awarded in August 1991, Mr Haun said. The consortium was obliged to spend a minimum of \$13.5 million in exploration work over the 10,664-square-kilometre block during the first three-year obligation period. The work obligations included 4,000 km of seismic lines and drilling of three wells.

Maersk Oil of Denmark operates the tract on behalf of the joint venture comprising Thaipo Ltd (31.67 percent), Thai Ramo Ltd (31.67 percent) and the Sophonpanich Co (5 percent). Maersk has a 31.67 percent interest in the tract.

"We have been doing what we are supposed to do, then we leave it to somebody to evaluate whether it is successful or not. The only thing I can say is we are satisfied with the results we have obtained so far," Mr Haun said.

Vietnam

Do Muoi Departs for Malaysia Visit 23 Mar

BK2303124594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Mahathir Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia, Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, left Hanoi on 23 March for an official visit to Malaysia.

Escorting Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi were the following comrades: Le Phuoc Tho, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau, secretary of the CPV Central Committee and director of the CPV Central Committee Organization Department; Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; Hong Ha, secretary of the CPV Central Committee and director of the CPV Central Committee External Relations Department; Tran Duc Luong, member of the CPV Central Committee and deputy prime minister; Phan Dien, member of the CPV Central Committee and head of the CPV Central Committee Office; Le Duc Thuy, assistant to the general secretary; and Ngo Tat To, Vietnamese ambassador to Malaysia.

Friendship Association With Malaysia Established

BK2203141594 Hanoi VNA in English 1353 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 22—The Vietnam-Malaysia Friendship Association made its first appearance here today with Mr. Dang Vu Chu, minister of light industry as its president.

Among those present at the ceremony were chairman of the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations Nguyen Quang Tao, Vice Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, the Malaysian ambassador to Vietnam. Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Dang Vu Chu said that the establishment of the Vietnam-Malaysia Friendship Association has demonstrated the Vietnamese people's desire to develop the fine friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

For his part, the Malaysian ambassador welcomed the setting up of the association, and noted that the programmes on cooperation between the two countries have been implemented effectively.

Cuban Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Meets Leaders of Groups

BK2303102394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, the Republic of Cuba's foreign minister who is on an official visit to Vietnam, held a meeting on 22 March with the leaders of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, Confederation of Vietnamese Workers, Vietnam Women Union Central Committee, Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Federation, Union of Vietnam Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organizations, and the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association. The Cuban ambassador in Vietnam, Comrade Tania Maccira Delgado, was also present.

On behalf of all the above mentioned organizations, Comrade Pham Van Kiet, vice president and secretary general of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, praised the brotherly solidarity between the peoples of Vietnam and Cuba and affirmed Vietnam's consistent support for the brother people of Cuba in their struggle to protect the country and build up socialism.

Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez heartily thanked the party, government, and people of Vietnam for the material and moral support in the past which he considered a great encouragement to the revolutionary cause of the Cuban people. He wished the people of Vietnam ever greater accomplishments in the national construction undertaking.

On this occasion the Cuban foreign minister delivered awards to three Vietnamese children who won the Cuba and I competition.

Leaves for Ho Chi Minh City

BK2303152494 Hanoi VNA in English 1411 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 23—Cuba's Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez and his party left here this morning for Ho Chi Minh City continuing his official friendship visit to Vietnam.

The guests were seen off by Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai, Vice President and Secretary General of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee Pham Van Kiet, and Deputy Head of the party External Relations Commission Do Van Tai.

Earlier, the Cuban diplomatic chief held a press conference on the results of his visit to Vietnam. Answering the questions on the visit's purposes, Minister Gonzalez said that exchanges of experiences and promotion of economic cooperation between Cuba and Vietnam are the most important targets of the visit. Vietnam has good experiences that Cuba may apply in its national construction. During the visit, the two sides reached agreements on cooperation in the fields of construction, fishery, biological technology and healthcare, the Cuban head delegate added.

Vu Khoan Signs 3 Billion Yen Aid Pact With Japan

BK2103152894 Hanoi VNA in English 1413 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 21—A note of exchange on the Japanese Government's non-refunded aid of 3 billion yen (roughly USD [U.S. dollars] 28.5 million) to Vietnam in the 1993 fiscal year was signed here today.

Signatories were Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan and Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam H. Yushita.

Also present at the signing ceremony were Deputy Head of the State Planning Commission Vo Hong Phuc and representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Justice, the State Bank and the Foreign Trade Bank of Vietnam.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Minister Vu Khoan and Ambassador H. Yushita expressed their wishes for further development of the cooperation between the two countries.

Prime Minister on Car Smuggling From Cambodia

BK2203131094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The LAO DONG newspaper reports that the Government Office issued an official correspondence on 15 March dealing with the illegal import of cars in Dong Nai, Song Be, and Tay Ninh Provinces.

In the correspondence, the prime minister requests the people's committee chairmen of these provinces to solemnly review the low tax rates and the imposition of light fines for the large quantity of cars illegally imported through their local land borders. At the same time, they must clearly define the causes and responsibility of involved organs and individuals before taking disciplinary actions against the offenders. The chairmen must directly report their findings to the prime minister.

The prime minister also reminds the people's committee chairmen of provinces and cities directly subordinate to the central government—except the three aforementioned provinces—to conduct checks in their localities for similar cases and to report them to him with suggestions on how to deal with the cases. He also clearly requests that all provinces must complete their report in March 1994.

The same newspaper reports that in 1992-93, the provinces of Tay Ninh, Song Be, and Dong Nai legalized 789 illegally imported cars, which caused an influx of cars from Cambodia through the southwest border. This created confusion for border control and car registration authorities, causing a loss of 50.627 billion dong for the national budget.

It is noteworthy that before the issuance of the Directive No. 01 TTG, these three provinces registered to legalize 328 illegally imported cars. After the introduction of the directive, they did not seize those cars as directed by the government instruction but continued to legalize an even larger quantity, 631, of illegally imported cars.

Thai Foreign Relations Delegation Arrives

BK2303151094 Hanoi VNA in English 1349 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi, VNA March 23—A delegation of the Foreign Relations Commission of the House of Representatives of Thailand, led by its chairman Dr. Krasae Chanawong arrived here today.

The delegation, guest of the Commission for External Relations of the Vietnam National Assembly (NA) includes nine representatives and a number of officials of the Thai House of Representatives and government.

While here the delegation will inquire into Vietnam's situation in the process of renovation, exchange views with the NA's Commission for External Relations, and discuss important issues aimed at promoting the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two states and assemblies. It will also meet with leaders of the Vietnam's National Assembly.

Vo Van Kiet Attends Meeting on Debt Solvency

BK2303142494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Recently, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held a working session with the Central Steering Committee for Debt Solvency (CSCDS). After listening to reports on the second stage of the debt solvency and opinions from the Finance Ministry, the Vietnam State Bank, the State Planning Commission, the Interior Ministry, the Supreme People's Organ of Control, the State Economic Arbitrators, and the State Finance and Monetary Council, the prime minister concluded as follows:

The second stage of the debt solvency is a burdensome and very complicated issue. If it is not satisfactorily

settled and quickly accomplished, its bad effects will be multiple. Therefore, the second stage of the debt solvency must be urgently conducted, solved, and basically concluded in 1994.

In executing the second stage of the debt solvency, the government has mobilized a moderately large force of cadres. However, after more than one year, the task has still not been concluded. This is partly due to the complicated and difficult characteristics of the second stage. But on the other side, it is also due to the lack of regular checks, encouragement, and guidance from different organs from the central to local levels, including the Standing Central Steering Committee for Debt Solvency. They still wait for the government to solve the bad debts. This is a great shortcoming of leaders of all echelons and levels. Therefore, it is necessary to solemnly review this responsibility.

In executing the second stage, the Standing Central Steering Committee for Debt Solvency must coordinate with related ministries and sectors to compile the necessary legal documents before presentation to the government for issuance to create a basis for the debt solvency committees at all levels to carry on their work. These documents must cover thoroughly all requirements and working principles.

All objective and subjective causes of bad debts must be considered carefully in line with the related structure and policies in effect when the debts were raised. At the same time, we must be very strict in cases where violations have been intentionally committed or committed due to irresponsibility.

We must classify each debt group for suitable measures. Debts among active state-run enterprises must be solved quickly, with proper attention paid to index adjustment and loan interests. We can provide some capital to create conditions for the debt settlement. Loans between active state-run enterprises with inactive or dissolved state-run enterprises, other organizations, and individuals must be separately listed before applying resolute and final measures with clear instructions to reclaim the money or settle the debts with assets, capital, land, or goods. In these cases, we must establish the responsibility of each sector, level, and individual, including administrative measures and legal proceedings against incumbent officials.

After that, debts will continue to be collected. The rest of the debt which is unable to be collected will be considered for subsidy from the government. While doing this, the responsibility of every sector and echelon must be clearly established to restore order and discipline in the state mechanism and purify the contingent of cadres, especially the cadres who manage the state finance and assets.

In dealing with debt solvency, the responsibilities of both sides must be established. Causes for prolonged debt must be defined by the debtors and favorable conditions must be actively created so that the debtors can repay

their debts. Reasons from both sides, debtors and creditors, must be established for better dealing.

In the implementation process, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet stressed the organization management of the debt solvency committees at all levels. If necessary, their power must be increased so that they can work better with other sectors and echelons. The number of specialized cadres sent to the standing debt solvency groups must be reviewed. A necessary number of cadres must be retained to carry on the work. After receiving instructions from the cabinet, the CSCDS will hold meetings with 10 provinces with acute problems in their debt solvency and with some key ministries and departments to execute the second stage of the debt solvency.

Workers Strive To Meet Power Project Schedule

BK2003151194 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] According to Quoc Ha of Electricity-Generating Corporation No. 3, for the first group of generators to be tested on 30 June, building units and French specialists in charge of the Vinh Son Hydroelectric Power Plant construction project are actively responding to the last phase of the emulation movement to complete the plant on schedule.

The Vinh Son Hydroelectric Power Plant Building Corporation, the 10 February Machine Installation Enterprise, the Water Conservancy Building Corporation No. 7, and the Vinh Son Hydroelectric Power Plant project management board are striving to install two turbine generators and build a water pipeline, pressure control tower, pressure pipeline, and 110-kv open-air power supply system before 15 May.

The Electricity-Generating Corporation No. 3 has set aside nearly 200 million dong in cash awards for winners of this emulation drive.

Ninety-Nine Percent of Spring Crop Complete

BK2203075394 Hanoi VNA in English 0622 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 22—By mid-March, the whole country had cropped 232,260 ha with winter-spring rice, accounting for nearly 99 percent of the plan. In general the paddy is growing well. Meanwhile the southern provinces had harvested 540,140 ha of early winter-spring rice. According to initial reports, the Mekong River delta achieved a yield of 4-6 tons/ha.

Australia**New Constitutional Framework for Bosnia Welcomed**

*BK2003132294 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
1100 GMT 20 Mar 94*

[Text] The Australian Government has welcomed the new constitutional framework for Bosnia agreed to in Washington. The country's Muslims and Croats have signed a pact creating a new federation within the former Yugoslav Republic. The Bosnian Serbs, who control 70 percent of Bosnia, refused to be in on the deal. Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans says peace cannot be fully restored without the active participation of the Serbs. Senator Evans said Australia hoped the Serbs would join the Croats and Muslims in concluding a comprehensive agreement to settle the conflict in Bosnia.

Prisoner Exchange Discussed With Thai Minister

*BK2303081394 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0100 GMT 23 Mar 94*

[Text] Australians serving long sentences in Thai prisons may soon be transferred to Australian jails. A prisoner exchange agreement is one of several issues raised during talks in Canberra between the foreign minister, Gareth Evans, and his visiting Thai counterpart, Prasong Sun-siri. Graeme Dobell reports if the agreement goes ahead, it will be Australia's first prisoner exchange treaty.

[Begin Dobell recording] There are more than 20 Australian prisoners in Thai jails, most serving long sentences for drug convictions. After the talks between the two foreign ministers, officials said both sides were keen on the prisoner exchange idea and there was an in-principle agreement. Senator Evans said the federal government needed to sort out administrative problems with the Australian states—which have control of prisons—so an agreement with Thailand could be settled in the next few months. [end recording]

Police To Depart for Mozambique Peacekeeping

*BK2303092394 Hong Kong AFP in English 0640 GMT
23 Mar 94*

[Text] CANBERRA, March 23 (AFP)—Sixteen Australian Federal Police officers leave here Thursday for six months' peacekeeping duty in Mozambique, a police spokesman said Wednesday. They will be the first Australians to participate actively in the United Nations' Mozambique peacekeeping mission, which is preparing the way for national elections later this year.

Mozambique suffered a protracted and devastating civil war which ended in 1992 when the government signed a peace agreement with right-wing rebels.

The spokesman said some of the 16 policemen bound for Mozambique had gained experience of peacekeeping police work with the police contingent to Cambodia in 1992-93. He said the Australians would be monitoring the ceasefire and supplementing local police in the lead up to the election.

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